

REPORT
THE 1ST TWG MEETING OF TEST GUIDELINES HARMONISATION ON ACACIA
8th - 10th September 2015
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
Kepong, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

1. Malaysia had proposed to lead The 1st TWG Meeting of Test Guidelines Harmonisation on Acacia during The 6th East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum Meeting held on 3rd July 2013 in Sarawak and was supported by all ASEAN Member States.
2. Therefore, with the consensus transpired during the 6th EAPVP Forum meeting, Malaysia hosted the TWG meeting from 8th – 10th September 2015 at Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong, Malaysia.
3. The meeting was attended by 21 Malaysian delegates consists of examiners and breeders from FRIM and PVP officers and 3 delegates from Cambodia, Vietnam and China respectively. Invitation was also extended to Mr. Yuichiro Ishii, National Center for Seeds and Seedlings (NCSS), Mr. Osamu Chigira, Director, Iriomote Tropical Tree Breeding Technical Garden, Forest Tree Breeding Centre (FFPRI) and Mrs. Kimiko Ishikawa, EAPVP Forum Office to assist Malaysia and participating ASEAN member states in harmonising test guidelines for Acacia. The list of delegates are as in **Annex 1.**
4. The meeting was led by Dr. Norwati binti Muhammad, Head of Biotechnology Programme, Forest Biotechnology Division.
5. Test Guidelines for Acacia was developed by Malaysian experts as well as Malaysian PVP Officers.
6. Objectives of the meeting are to develop a harmonized Test Guidelines of Acacia as well as to standardize the DUS examination of Acacia among ASEAN member states.

AGENDA 1: OPENING SESSION

1.1 Welcoming Remarks

Honourable Dato' Dr. Rahim Bin Sudin, Deputy Director General (Operation) of FRIM delivered his speech as in **Annex 2.**

1.2 Special Remarks by Secretariat of East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum

Mrs. Kimiko Ishikawa, Senior Researcher of JATAFF / EAPVP Forum Office delivered her remarks as in **Annex 3.**

AGENDA 2: TECHNICAL EXPLANATION

- 2.1 Mr. Osamu Chigira presented on “Breeding of Acacia spp.” and as in **Annex 4**.
- 2.2 Mr. Yuichiro Ishii presented on “General Introduction on Test Guidelines” and as in **Annex 5**.

AGENDA 3: DISCUSSION AND OBSERVATION ON THE TEST GUIDELINES OF ACACIA – IDENTIFYING AND HARMONIZING ACACIA CHARACTERISTICS FOR EAPVP-F

- 3.1 This session was chaired by Dr. Norwati binti Muhammad to lead the discussion on the above said matters.
- 3.2 Discussions were made among participating ASEAN Member States experts on species level specifically to all varieties in acacia mangium, acacia auriculiformis and acacia hybrid explanatory notes of characteristics, grouping characteristics, terminology used in TG, time of observation and decision on harmonizing each characteristics.
- 3.3 A total of 22 characteristics were adopted for harmonization, 4 new characteristics and 8 characteristics as grouping to be added.

CONCLUSION

1. Delegates participate actively and showed good effort in harmonising the Test Guidelines for Acacia.
2. The meeting adopted the harmonized drafted of Test Guidelines for Acacia with some amendments.
3. The Test Guideline Harmonization already finalized during this meeting. The meeting decided, further discussion on Test Guidelines for Acacia will be made through circulation by e-mail.
4. The meeting agreed to continue for the next meeting to develop a new test guideline of Acacia in *Acacia crassicarpa* and *Acacia aulacocarpa*.
5. The meeting also agreed this new test guideline of Acacia in *Acacia crassicarpa* and *Acacia aulacocarpa* meeting will be host by Asean member country, Vietnam. Tentative date and venue will be notified to all delegates later.
6. Malaysia wishes all delegates the best of luck and safe journey home. The meeting adjourned at 2.00 pm for closing ceremony. The meeting will continue for test run of Acacia test guideline in Segamat, Johor.