

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!

It has been a challenging year for our association and everyone in generally. Nonetheless, with your continuous cooperation and commitment, we managed to complete most of the APAFRI activities as planned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your active involvement and valuable contribution over the year.

The most significant APAFRI's event of this year, namely the Ninth APAFRI General Assembly, was convened successfully on 7 December 2021. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members present for reelecting me as the Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee for another term. It is an indication of confidence of the members given to the capability of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and me. My gratitude also goes to the past Executive Committee members for their excellent service and cooperation over the past three years.

I would like to congratulate and welcome the members of the new APAFRI Executive Committee for 2021-2024. The elected members are well-balanced geographically as we have representatives from all the sub-regions of Asia Pacific including East Asia, Oceania, South Asia and South East Asia. I'm looking forward to working with this well-represented team towards achieving the objective of APAFRI in fostering the development of forestry research for sustainable forestry management in the Asia Pacific region.



On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would invite all members to assist us by providing ideas and suggestions for the development of our association and improvement of the secretariat services. All members are urged to invite other institutions from your respective country to join APAFRI so that we can have a larger membership in representing the Asia Pacific region.

I would also like to put on record my appreciation to the funding agencies namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia Pacific; and National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) for their substantial financial support which is vital for the sustainability of APAFRI. Under my administration, FRIM will surely continue to support APAFRI in terms of both in-kind and financial contributions as we do since 2000.

As the pandemic is under control, I foresee the planned activities of APAFRI would be implemented accordingly in 2022. I'm looking forward to meeting you in the XV World Forestry Congress in which APAFRI will be organizing three side events.

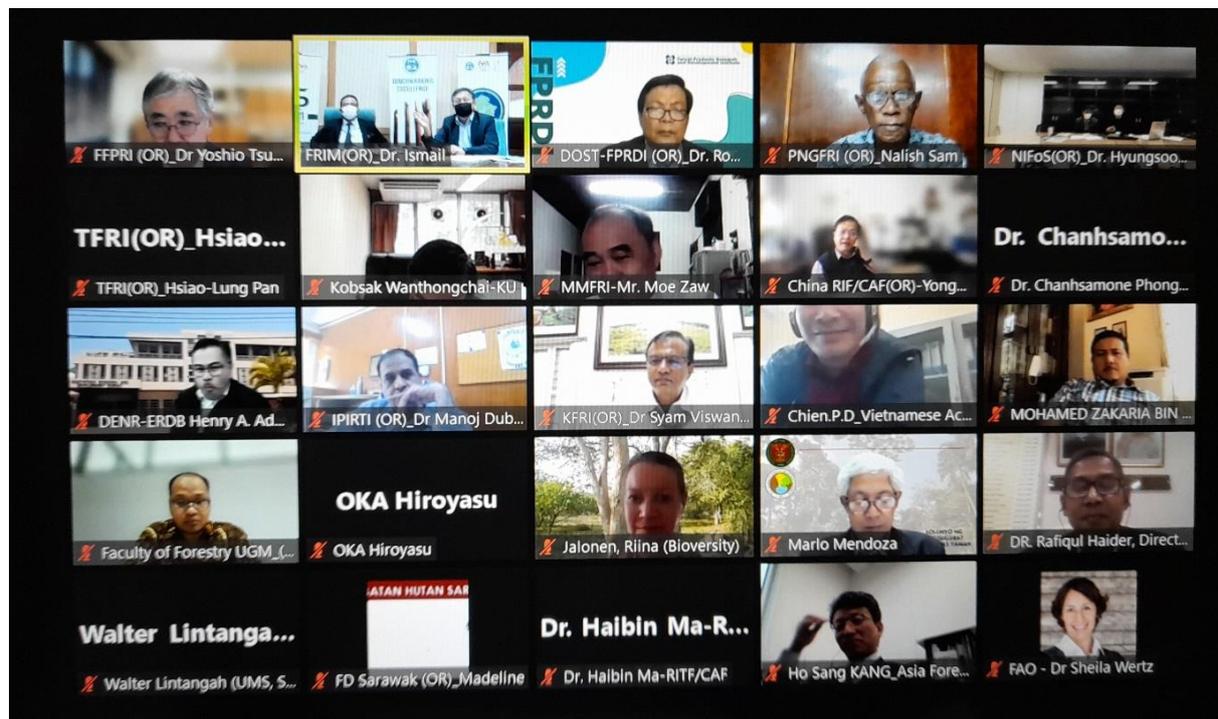
As 2021 is coming to the end, allow me to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a healthy and successful new year in 2022.

Dr. Ismail Parlan
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2021

THE NINTH APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 December 2021

Virtual Meeting



Dr. Ismail Parlan, Chairman of the current Executive Committee, welcomed all the participants. He introduced himself as the new Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) replacing Dr. Khali Aziz has retired on 29 April 2021. It was his great honor to be involved as the Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee.

He thanked Senior Forestry Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), Dr. Sheila Wert-Kunounikoff, for attending the meeting as an observer. He also expressed the appreciation towards the generous support of FAO RAP which contributes to the sustainability of APAFRI.

The Chairman explained that the General Assembly shall be convened once every three years in accordance with APAFRI Constitution. The APAFRI Eighth General Assembly was held on 29 November 2018. The Registrar of Societies (ROS) of Malaysia has advised APAFRI to organize the GA by end of this year. Due to these requirements and travel

restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, the only viable option was to conduct the assembly virtually.

He mentioned that there were 26 member institutions presented in the assembly which was the highest attendance in the recent years. He then invited the participants to introduce themselves in turn.

The Chairman presented the report detailing the activities and programs for 2018-2021. During the three-year period, the Executive Committee has met three times.



Executive Secretary, Dr Gan Kee Seng, shared the history of APAFRI with the participants because some of them were newly appointed representatives. The report was followed by explaining the implemented activities during the past years. He expressed his gratitude to the support from various organizations in



conducting the numerous activities. Due to the challenges in the pandemic of Covid-19, there was an inevitable postponement of the physical programs which was planned to be conducted in 2020 and 2021. The Secretariat is in communications with the funders including FAO RAP and National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) on the new plan in 2022.

Dr. Gan then continued to discuss the financial report. He explained that there was a high amount of fund retained in the account for the past couple of years because of the postponement of the planned activities. The fund would be put in use once the physical programs are allowed and travel restrictions are lifted.

Dr. Gan highlighted that NIFoS's annual financial contributions had enable APAFRI to support to member institutions in organizing activities in the region. He also thanked Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) for hosting the APAFRI Secretariat since 2000. FRIM provided a well-equipped office premises and assigned a senior researcher with an office assistant to run the operation of the Secretariat. This in-kind contributions were vital for the association.

The Chairman ended his report by thanking the funders and partners of the APAFRI activities.

In accordance with Article XII of APAFRI Constitution, Executive Committee member who has served two terms consecutively is not eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary also explained the candidate for election of Executive Committee member must be

present in the General Assembly and their membership subscription must be up-to-date.

Dr. Gan also pointed out that APAFRI members are consisted of forestry research institutions from four sub-regions of Asia Pacific namely South Asia, South East Asia, East Asia and Oceania. It is important to have

Executive Committee members from all four regions so that the issues of each region are brought to the attention of Executive Committee effectively. He then proceeded with the election of the new Executive Committee for 2021–2024.

FPRDI proposed to reelect the Executive Committee members who has served only one term. This was to ensure the continuity and smooth operation of the association. FFPRI supported the proposal for the same reason. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the members.

Due to the eligibility conditions, Kasetsart University, RIFEEP-CAF, TFRI and FOERDIA were not qualified to be reelected. Thus, there were four vacant posts opened for election. RIF-CAF, IPIRTI, PNG-FRI and Bioversity Malaysia was nominated and accepted unanimously as the Executive Committee members for the new term. IFGTB and AFI were elected unanimously to be the Internal Auditors.

In his speech as the new Chairman, Dr. Ismail thanked all the members present for their support in the election. He would further strengthen the function of APAFRI with the cooperation from the Executive Committee. He also invited the members to join the effort by giving useful suggestions and ideas. He announced that Dr. Pin Kar Yong would be the new Executive Secretary replacing Dr. Gan Kee Seng after the General Assembly. Dr. Gan will serve as a Fellow to assist the operation of the Secretariat.

With these notes, he declared the Ninth APAFRI General Assembly adjourned.

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE APAFRI NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Asia Forest Institute (AFI), Seoul National University, Korea
Dr. Kang Ho Sang



Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Bangladesh
Dr. Rafiqul Haider



Bioversity International, Malaysia
Dr. Riina Jalonen



College of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Banos (CFNR-UPLB), Philippines
Associate Prof. Dr. Marlo Mendoza



Department of Forestry & Wildlife, Cambodia
Dr. Sokh Heng



Ecosystems Research & Development Bureau (ERDB), Philippines
Dr. Henry A. Adornado



Faculty of Forestry, University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia
Dr. Widiyatno



Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia
Prof. Dr. Mohammed Zakaria Hussin



Forest & Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), Japan
Dr. Yoshio Tsuboyama



Forest Department Sarawak, Malaysia
Ms. Madeline George Pau



Forest Product Research & Development Institute (FPRDI), Philippines
Dr. Romulo T. Aggangan



Forest Research Centre, Lao PDR
Dr. Chanh Samone Phongoudome



Forest Research Institute (FRI) Myanmar
Mr. Moe Zaw



Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia
Dr. Ismail Parlan



Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI), India
Dr. Manoj Kumar Dubey



Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), India
Dr. Rekha R. Warriar



Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Science (JIRCAS), Japan
Dr. Oka Hiroyasu



Kasetsart University, Thailand
Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai



Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), India
Dr. Syam Viswanath



National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Korea
Dr. Choi Hyungsoon



Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute (PNG-FRI), Papua New Guinea
Dr. Nalish Sam



Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RIF-CAF), China
Dr. Zheng Yongqi



Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RITF-CAF), China
Dr. Ma Haibin



Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI), Taiwan
Dr. Pan Hsiao Lung



University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Malaysia
Dr. Walter Lintangah



Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Vietnam
Dr. Pham Duc Chien

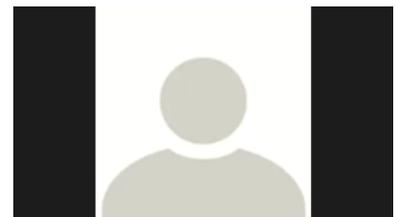
OBSERVER



FAO RAP
Dr. Sheila Wert-Kanounnikoff



Forest Department Sarawak, Malaysia
Ms. Salina Haji Hamdi



Kasetsart University, Thailand
Dr. Kritsadapan Palakit

APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021-2024

<p>Chair</p>			<p>Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Dr. Ismail Parlan</p>
<p>Vice Chair</p>			<p>Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) Dr. Yoshio Tsuboyama</p>
<p>Immediate Past Chair</p>			<p>National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea Dr. Hyungsoon Choi</p>
<p>Member</p>			<p>Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) Dr. Romulo T. Aggangan</p>
			<p>Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) Dr. Syam Viswanath</p>
			<p>Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RIF-CAF) Dr. Zheng Yongqi</p>
			<p>Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI) Dr. Shakti Singh Chauhan / Dr Manoj Kumar Dubey</p>
			<p>Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute (PNG-FRI) Dr. Nalish Sam</p>
			<p>Bioersity International Dr. Riina Jalonen</p>

APAFRI INTERNAL AUDITORS 2021-2024

Article XVII (Audit) of the APAFRI Constitution states that *‘two persons who shall not be the Executive Committee members of the Association shall be appointed by the General Assembly. They shall hold office for the duration until the next General Assembly’.*

During the Ninth APAFRI General Assembly, IFGTB and AFI were elected unanimously to be the Internal Auditors for 2021–2024.



Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB)
Dr. Rekha R. Warriar



Asia Forest Institute (AFI), Seoul National University
Dr. HoSang Kang

NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF APAFRI



We are pleased to inform that Dr. Pin Kar Yong has been assigned to the APAFRI Secretariat as the new Executive Secretary replacing Dr. Gan Kee Seng who retired from FRIM on 27 May 2021. The announcement was made by the Chairman, Dr. Ismail Parlan during the Ninth APAFRI General Assembly on 7 December 2021. Dr. Gan will continue his service as a Fellow on a part-time basis in assisting the operation of the Secretariat.

Dr. Pin Kar Yong started working as a research officer in FRIM since 2009. He completed his doctoral study in Chemical Engineering in the same year. Currently he is the Head of Herbal Extraction and Processing Unit.

The assignment of Dr. Pin Kar Yong to APAFRI has further reaffirmed the support and commitment of FRIM towards the sustainability of APAFRI.

PACIFIC FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY

“Forests and trees in enhancing resilience of people and landscapes in the Pacific Island countries”

During the second half of year 2021, APAFRI implemented 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting on 12 November 2021; Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies on 1 December 2021; and Workshop on Land Tenure in the Pacific and its Implications on Land Use and Forest Governance for Sustainability on 2 December 2021. The scope of services under Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study was completed and the agreement between APAFRI and FAO which was signed in December 2020 was officially closed.



2nd Advisory Committee Meeting

12 November 2021, Online Meeting

The virtual meeting was chaired by Ms. XiangJun Yao (FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Pacific Islands sub-region) and attended by 25 committee members. The members were given an overview of the progress in implementing the outlook study including the current status of the preparation of the country outlook papers, key findings from the thematic studies and early chapters of the Pacific Outlook Report. The meeting also

discussed the overall approach to the formulation of scenarios and their implications. The members provided suggestions on several key issues to be considered in the outlook study.



Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

1 December 2021, Online Meeting

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Rao Matta. The important issues discussed were the experience of people in the Pacific in confronting climate change and lessons learnt from the coping strategies of people on land use. Ms. Luoxi from APFNet presented an overview of the main findings and conclusions of the thematic study. It was followed by the discussion

sessions facilitated by Ms. Christine Fung and Mr. CTS Nair.



Workshop on Land Tenure in the Pacific and its Implications on Land Use and Forest Governance for Sustainability

2 December 2021, Online Meeting

The workshop provided a broader perspective through drawing on the knowledge and experience of a wider group of experts who are familiar with the complex land tenure issues within and outside the Pacific region. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Rao Matta. Mr. Sairusi Bulai gave an overview of the main findings and conclusions of the thematic study. It was

followed by the discussion sessions facilitated by Ms. Safia Agarwal, Mr. CTS Nair and Mr. Lex Thompson.

IUFRO WORLD DAY

Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

28 – 29 September 2021



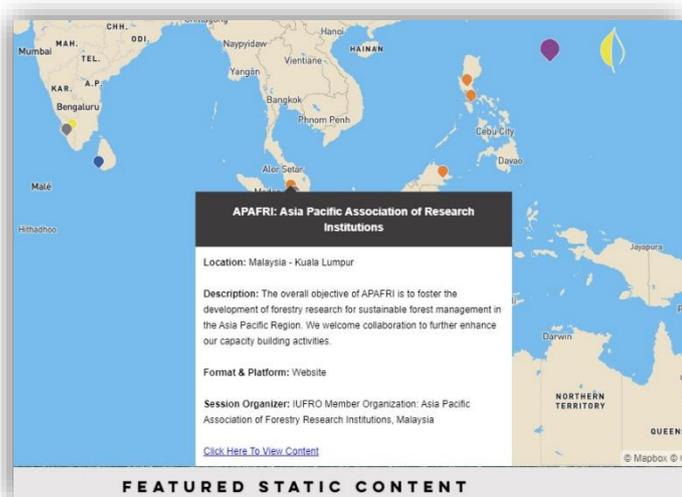
IUFRO successfully organized the IUFRO World Day- Global Digital Forest Science Forum 2021, on 28 and 29 September 2021. This worldwide digital IUFRO event was held to cater for the need of strengthening networking and communication in IUFRO since the large physical meetings were still not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the objectives to showcase the diversity of the IUFRO Network, the event received participations

from all over the world in their own time as the event was structured into three major time zone groups spreading over two days. It was a unique opportunity to meet, interact, share and strengthen global research cooperation.

The IUFRO World Day included more than 60 static news items next to the live session portfolio. The static content which was available on the map during the whole event included recorded sessions, informative videos, publications, articles and other interesting information by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations. APAFRI was delighted to contribute in the Static Content which contained a short description of the Association.

In conjunction with this event, IUFRO-SPDC held a session titled “Capacities For Forest Science: Shape Your Professional Future” on 29 September 2021 specifically for Asia and Oceania to inform about what IUFRO-SPDC has to offer, what the benefits are for participants, and to collect input from the relevant countries on changing priorities, expanding skills, knowledge and capacities needed by forest scientists.



ASIAN ROSEWOODS: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES



Left photo: Remnant rosewood trees on a farmland in Central Laos. Credit: NAFRI

Right photo: A Cambodian farmer established a seed source for *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* with the project support. Credit: IFWRD

Rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) are some of the most priced timber species in the world. Over-exploitation through illegal harvesting has significantly reduced most of these species in their natural range. In the Greater Mekong subregion, the species remain today mainly in protected areas only. Rosewoods are increasingly popular for tree planting and a potentially important source of income for rural communities. Yet, restoring them is easier said than done, as climate threats and adaptation needs remain poorly understood, seeds and seedlings are in short supply, and farmers lack skills to produce quality seedlings and access markets.

From 2018 to 2022, forestry research institutions from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and China collaborated with Bioversity International and two European universities on identifying regional conservation priorities for three threatened Rosewood species, namely *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *D. cultrata* and *D. oliveri*. The countries also established new conservation sites and genetic reserves for the species in natural forests and planted populations, and developed the capacities of forestry authorities and local communities in conserving and multiplying the species.

Project partners came together at a virtual workshop on 6 December 2021 where they shared the achievements and lessons learned through the

project. A new region-wide gap analysis of conservation needs and restoration priorities, led by Bioversity International, showed that the species are vulnerable to land use -related threats also within protected areas, and require restoration in over half of their natural distribution area. *Dalbergia cultrata* is also highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Genomic studies of *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* by the University of Oxford revealed patterns of adaptation across species ranges and yielded information for sourcing seed for restoring and planting the species under a changing climate.

Mr Chaloun Bounithiphonh and Mr Bansa Thammavong from the Forestry Research Center, Lao PDR, and Dr Tran Thi Hoa from the Vietnamese Academy of Agricultural Sciences shared the progress in establishing new conservation units in their countries. Four new conservation sites were established in both countries. In Vietnam, the project team also helped local communities obtain for the first time a permit to collect seed of *Dalbergia* spp. for seedling production within a National Park, marking a new partnership between the communities and the Park authorities.

Technical and financial support to smallholder farmers in Cambodia resulted in the establishment of farmer-owned seed sources for both *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*, to ensure seed availability for tree planting programmes and provide

new livelihood opportunities for the farmers. Forest-related income among participating farmers almost tripled as a result. Under the leadership of Dr So Thea, researchers from the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia, developed a new vegetative propagation method for the two species. Project team at Forest Research Center of Lao PDR also worked with local communities to support the establishment



Dalbergia oliveri in a national park in Vietnam. Credit: AGI, VAAS

of two community nurseries and encourage farmers to plant Rosewoods on their land as a source of income from seed sales.

All in all, the project results highlighted the importance of regional collaboration for mobilising knowledge, resources and efforts for conserving the precious species. The project's methods and approaches can be applied to other valuable native species as well.

Project results and publications are available on the website of the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN, www.apforgen.org)

Conserving Rosewood genetic diversity for resilient livelihoods in Greater Mekong was a regional initiative implemented in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam from July 2018 to December 2021. The project was led by the University of Oxford and implemented in collaboration with Bioversity International, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, and University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The project was funded by the UK Darwin Initiative. Activities for conserving Dalbergia cultrata and other native species in China are funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

(Report by Dr Riina Jalonen, Bioversity International, Malaysia)

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/ PARTICIPATED BY APAFRI IN 2021

Date	Activity	Venue	Notes
8 March 2021	FAO Pacific Outlook Study (POS) Meeting	Online Meeting	FAO LoA
6 April 2021	Pacific Outlook Study- 1st Advisory Committee meeting	Online Meeting	FAO LoA
23 September 2021	Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the APAFRI Executive Committee	Online Meeting	APAFRI
28-29 September 2021	IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021	Digital Event	IUFRO
12 November 2021	Pacific Outlook Study- 2nd Advisory Committee meeting	Online Meeting	FAO LoA
1 December 2021	Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies	Online Meeting	FAO LoA
2 December 2021	Workshop on Land Tenure in the Pacific and its Implications on Land Use and Forest Governance for Sustainability	Online Meeting	FAO LoA
7 December 2021	The Ninth APAFRI General Assembly	Online Meeting	APAFRI
14 December 2021	Workshop: Towards Strengthening Capacity for Advancing Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Asia and The Pacific	Online Meeting	FAO RAP
16 December 2021	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) Evaluation Interviews	Online Meeting	FAO RAP



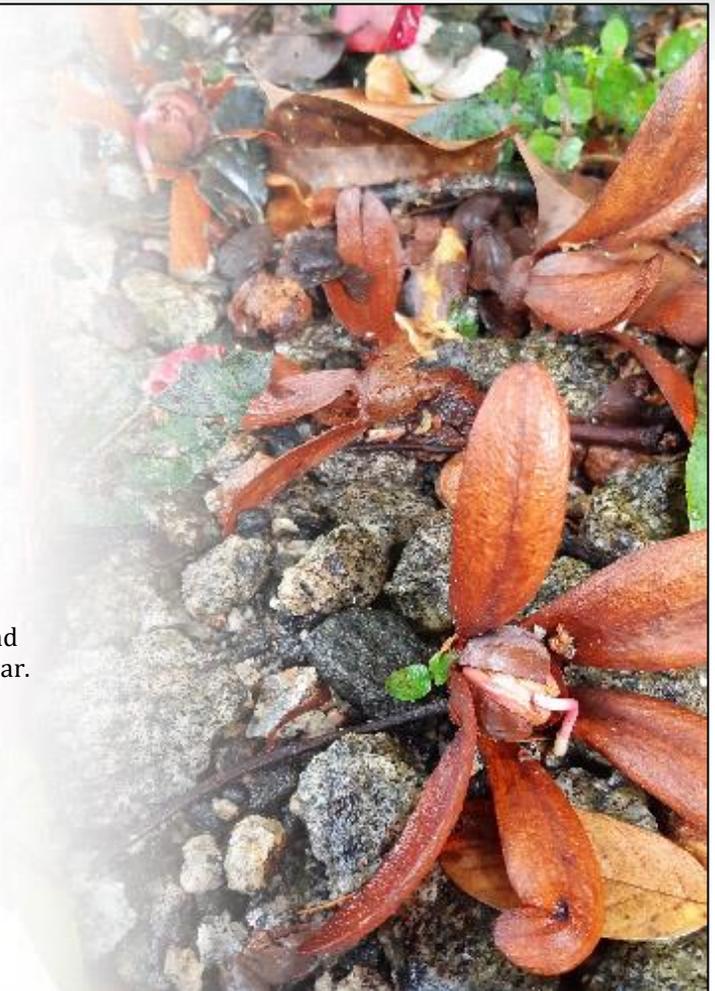
Season's Greetings & Happy New Year 2022

Dear Members and Friends of APAFRI,

As 2021 is coming to the end, I would like to wish you and your family a joyous festive season and a fruitful New Year. Looking for to meeting you in-person in 2022!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Ismail Parlan
APAFRI, Chairman



The APAFRI Newsletter is compiled by the Secretariat. Your comments, articles and/or suggestions are gratefully received.

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- ❖ National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)