

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

GCP/RAS/163/NET

FORESTRY RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(FORSPA)

Report of the Terminal Evaluation Mission

Bangkok
May 2001

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List of abbreviations

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes
APAFRI	Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutes
APFRen	Asia-Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CAB	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences
CABI	CAB-International
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FORGENMAP	Forest Genetic Conservation and Management Project
FORSPA	Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific
FRIM	Forest Research Institute Malaysia
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centre
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
MTE	Mid-term evaluation of FORSPA (1998)
NTFP	Non Timber Forest products
NWFP	Non Wood Forest Products
PNGFRI	Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute
RAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO)
SPA	Senior Programme Adviser (FORSPA)
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
UPLB	University of the Philippines Los Banos
UPM	University Putra Malaysia

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FORSPA in its Phase II has been largely a successful project. It has been recognized as important by member countries and international research organizations alike. The project has made key contributions, particularly in research planning, furthering professional contact among forestry researchers and improvement of information availability. The project has taken a flexible approach to human resource development, having funded a large number and variety of activities. Through a wise choice of interventions, the project has made valuable contributions to institution-building.

FORSPA has now been in existence for 10 years. The second phase project, besides carrying on some of the same types of activities that took place in Phase I, also was to assist in the establishment and strengthening of APAFRI, with the objective that some of FORSPA's activities relating to networking, information exchange and organization of research meetings would be taken over by APAFRI by the end of Phase II. This objective, given APAFRI's institutional situation and possibilities, was overly ambitious and developments during Phase II further compromised the situation. On the other hand, objectives relating to networking and development of research capacity have been achieved to a very high degree. The project has successfully focused on important issues for research. However, socio-economic factors did not receive enough attention, despite their featuring prominently in the project document.

The FORSPA project presently has a remaining duration of approximately seven months (to December 2001). In view of the remaining tasks, and in order to find a donor for a recommended Phase III, the mission has recommended to the Government of the Netherlands a final extension by six months, within the existing budget. Whether or not the project is extended, the following recommendations should be implemented by FORSPA before the project terminates:

1. A consultancy for APAFRI from a person experienced in network management;
2. Assistance in establishing a work plan for APAFRI covering the next two years;
3. Assistance and persuasion to update databases that have already been turned over to APAFRI for management.

Such assistance will not fill all of APAFRI's needs, but is most needed and can be completed in the remaining project period.

Given the success of FORSPA and remaining tasks, including establishment of APAFRI, the mission has recommended a final, Phase III project of three years' duration. Key recommendations for the Phase III are:

1. Shift of project location to Kuala Lumpur;
2. Assistance to APAFRI, with a goal to maintaining members' interest and satisfaction with it;
3. Greater focus on activities in South Asia;
4. Assistance in developing more networks of interest to member countries, including particularly networks of short-term duration for solving particular problems;
5. Greater focus on sensitizing research institutions to socio-economic issues;
6. Further work on research planning support in countries previously assisted and synthesis of experience thus far;
7. Continued training activities in high priority areas to the extent that funding is available.

II. INTRODUCTION

FORSPA is a major regional project aimed at strengthening forestry research capabilities in countries of the Asia and Pacific region. The present evaluation takes place towards the end of its Phase II, which began in 1996 and was supported by the Government of the Netherlands with funding of US\$3,221,808.

The Phase II project had a mid-term evaluation in 1998 that made recommendations for the remaining project period. The present evaluation was to review the accomplishments of the project in its totality and make recommendations for future assistance, if warranted. Emphasis was placed on the future sustainability of the Asia and Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), which was intended to take over some of the significant activities begun by FORSPA.

The evaluation mission consisted of:

Robert Moore, Evaluation Specialist, Team Leader, representing FAO;

Gertjan Renes, Tropical Forestry Adviser, Department of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, International Agricultural Centre, Wageningen, representing the Government of the Netherlands;

Ram Prasad, Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, India, representing the member countries of FORSPA

Terms of reference for the mission are attached as Annex 1.

After initial briefing at project headquarters at RAP, Bangkok, the mission had the opportunity to visit five FORSPA member countries (Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR) prior to attending the ninth FORSPA Advisory Group meeting and APAFRI Executive Committee meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. At Chiang Mai, the mission distributed a questionnaire on the project that was completed by all national members of the FORSPA Advisory Group. Final report writing and debriefing were done at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. The full mission itinerary and list of key persons met are found attached as Annex 2.

The mission undertook a follow-up study to the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation; this is presented as Annex 3 and a full list of project reports and publications is in Annex 4.

The mission wishes to express its gratitude to the many individuals and institutions that we met. Arrangements and reception were in all cases excellent. Special thanks for organization go to the FORSPA project and its Senior Adviser, Dr. S. Appanah.

III. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Phase I FORSPA project began in 1991, implemented by FAO with financial support from UNDP. That project was aimed at establishing regional self-reliance in forestry research and, in particular, to foster networking and information exchange. The first phase supported 27 research projects in 11 countries, published technical papers and newsletters, compiled data bases of forestry researchers, social science institutions and gray literature, sponsored attendance at meetings and seminars, upgraded IT in certain countries and facilitated movement of planting material between countries.

A final evaluation of the Phase I project strongly recommended a continuation Phase II. It further recommended priority-setting for FORSPA so that activities it supports are well-directed towards objectives; an “on-the -job” training programme; closer liaison with IARCs and an information management component for Phase II.

At the end of FORSPA Phase I, a bridging operation was approved by ADB, to complete the research projects not yet finished, to continue strengthening information services and research capabilities and to assist with the establishment of APAFRI. The meeting to establish APAFRI and approve its constitution was held in February 1995 at Bogor, Indonesia. Besides ADB, other support was given from Australia (for training) and from UK, channeled through CAB International, for CD ROM work stations (hardware and software). However, the main follow-up support came from the Netherlands in the form of the Phase II project, with a budget of US\$3,221,808 and an original duration of 4 years and 3 months (to April 2000). The project was subsequently extended in time to the end of 2001 within the original budget.

Considerations for approval of the Phase II project included:

- The large number of forestry-related networks and projects in the region and consequent information needs about them;
- The considerable disparity in the importance of forestry and the development of forestry research in countries covered by FORSPA;
- A changing institutional context for forestry research, including an increasing focus on clients besides the Forestry Department (including the private sector) and on non-traditional research topics, especially those with a socio-economic focus.

Accordingly, a new project was prepared, retaining some of the activities of Phase I, such as strengthening of information availability and regional awareness-building. The new project also added a component for training and, most significantly, a component for setting up a regional mechanism – APAFRI – to provide a permanent institutional focus for forestry research-related activities in the region. In the present evaluation, considerable attention was given to assessing the capacity of APAFRI to assume the role of coordinating body for forestry-related research in the Asia and Pacific region.

IV. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

A. Justification

As stated above, the Phase II project was built on the experience of Phase I, which gave beneficial experience in working with and studying the problems associated with forestry research in the region. These included:

- weaknesses in identifying relevant research addressing critical issues;
- lack of cost-effectiveness and user orientation;
- poor access to information, especially in less developed countries of the region;
- inadequate inter-regional cooperation on common themes;
- a strong focus in research on state management of forests and plantation industries.

It was felt that a regional effort like FORSPA would be able to stimulate and catalyze change in individual countries. A keystone of the strategy was promotion of collaboration between researchers and research managers, taking advantage of the relatively stronger position of some countries through regional activities and twinning arrangements. The main factors used to justify FORSPA Phase II were the needs for institutional strengthening at country level and a mechanism at regional level for improving links between forestry research organizations, including promoting information exchange and cooperative research programmes. As such, the second phase of FORSPA was well justified and a five-year time frame for the project was appropriate.

B. Objectives

The mid-term evaluation report contained an excellent analysis of project objectives that this mission shares. The project's development objective - conservation and sustainable management of forest and tree resources in Asia and the Pacific and enhanced availability of products and services from these resources - is probably applicable to any forestry project in the region. As such, this objective is not very useful as a framework for analysis. However, the statement of the development objective further identifies a broad range of goals, including those related to enhancing technical capabilities of the end user, the environment, forest productivity (especially NWFP), poverty alleviation and women. While the project could not have been expected to have a discernable impact on these goals, this could have provided an orientation to the types of research to support or encourage. Especially the client-focused goals relating to poverty alleviation and women implies a rather different orientation to research than that pursued by forestry research organizations in the region.

The immediate objectives have the common fault of being expressed as activities, or as means rather than ends. However, other sections of the project document give better indication of the actual objectives pursued by the project. While the capacity-building objective of the project is not precisely defined, it is clear that the emphasis was to be on the weaker countries of the region (i.e. Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Pacific countries). As the capacity-building component was intended to be flexible and responsive to emerging concerns, it would not have been possible to establish a precise goal in this respect. However, establishment of APAFRI and research networks were clear objectives.

The mission feels that all the objectives addressed genuine needs of the region. Within these, the establishment of APAFRI was at the same time the most important objective of the project and the most difficult to be realized. This is because the FORSPA project had less managerial control over this outcome and because comparatively few project resources were directed at this, especially for developing relevant managerial capacity. It is apparent that no assessment was made of APAFRI's managerial capabilities for assuming networking and information exchange responsibilities. This was the major deficiency in project formulation.

C. Project Design

Aside from the lack of precision in project objectives and the excessive length and repetition of the project document, the overall project design was basically satisfactory. The original project document was flexible in that it left latitude in the choice of specific subjects for research networks, seminars and training and this was very useful. Linkages between activities, outputs and objectives were reasonably clear, with the notable exception of the absence of information on how APAFRI would be made fully operational. The project document discussed only the steps up to the establishment of the secretariat. This alone should not have been considered sufficient for self-sustainability.

The project had a straightforward management structure. It was located within the FAO Regional Office and thus was able to achieve efficiencies from being able to make use of that infrastructure. This facilitated communications and contact with other members of the Regional Office dealing with forestry matters. The Advisory Group, consisting of representatives from FORSPA member countries, provided a forum for discussion on past project activities and future work plans. The organization of these meetings has been efficient in that they are combined with other activities. For example, the ninth Advisory Group meeting held during this evaluation mission was combined with a workshop on communication between forestry research and policy makers/stakeholders, and a meeting of the APAFRI Executive Committee.

V. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

A. Project Budget and Expenditure

Due largely to the lack of continuity in the Senior Adviser position, project expenditure has slowed since 1999, meaning that the project will still have an unexpended balance at the end of the present duration (December 2001). Table 1 presents total expenditure to May 2001, estimated expenditure through the rest of the year and the balance.

Table 1: Financial Information 1996 – 2001

BL	Item	Total Budget (Rev. G)	Spent 1996-14 May 01	Available to 31.12.01	Estimated expenditure 15.5.01-31.12.01	Estimated Unprogram med balance
1101	Senior Prog. Adv.	748,263	617,323	130,940	60,808	70,132
1151	Consultants	333,489	275,781	57,709	37,000	20,709
1153	Evaluation	36,780		36,780	30,000	6,780
1300	Admin. Support	331,954	281,490	50,464	24,000	26,464
2000	Duty Travel	349,009	241,975	107,035	80,000	27,035
3000	Contracts	339,663	198,714	140,950	60,000	80,950
4000	Gen.Op.Expenses	236,643	164,653	72,007	30,000	42,007
5000	Expendable equip.	12,996	13,789	-793	10,000	-10,793
6000	Non-exp. equip.	30,743	25,455	5,288	2,000	3,288
8001	Fellows. & Tng.	428,215	396,612	31,603	5,000	26,603
9600	Unallocated app.	4,533	4,533			
9100	Support costs	369,500	283,509	85,991	60,000	25,991
	Total	3,221,808	2,503,834	717,974	398,808	319,166

Based on projected expenditures over the remaining period of the present duration, it appears that there will be an unexpended, uncommitted balance of nearly \$320,000 at December 31, 2001. Given the requirements identified by the evaluation mission and the likely need to find another donor for an eventual FORSPA Phase III, which may take some time, the mission recommends an extension of the project within existing funds. The remaining balance should be sufficient to operate the project for another six months. Of the \$320,000 balance, it appears that at least 50% of the funds could be available for operational activities (under Contracts, General Operating Expenses, and Fellowships and Training) and not merely for paying staff salaries and expenses.

The mid-term evaluation prepared two tables like the ones below, giving information on proportional distribution of resources between activities and FORSPA resources as divided among groups of countries. The tables below are given for comparative purposes, updated to April 2001. Table 2 reflects a considerable increase in the percentage of resources devoted to regional activities, increasing from 27% at the time of the mid-term evaluation to over 37% now. Almost all the increase is attributed to increased support for network meetings and secretariats, which increased from 5.1% to 13.2% of operational activity expenditure. National strategy development (7.7% to 11.8%) and on-the-job training (2.9% to 6.2%) also showed significant increases, while training in research planning decreased from 21% to 13.7%, reflecting the fact that this work was completed in the early days of the project.

The trend for FORSPA to support the low-to-middle research capacity countries increased during the last three years, with the percentage of resources devoted to these countries increasing from 73% to nearly 83%. Nearly all of this increase was to the low research capacity countries of South Asia, which was a welcome development compared to the situation three years before. However, the expenditure on South Asia low-to-middle capacity countries still remains at only half the expenditure in countries of similar capability in Southeast Asia.

Overview of distribution of FORSPA resources over the period January 1996 to April 2001

Regionally Focused Activities	% of Total	Nationally Focused Activities	% of Total
Establishment of APAFRI	6.2%	Training in Research Planning etc.	13.7%
FORSPA Advisory Group & Associated regional meetings	10.0%	National Strategy Development	11.8%
Regional studies & seminars	6.4%	Development of Libraries etc.	10.8%
Support to Network Meetings & Secretariats	13.2%	Twinning	6.1%
FORSPA Information Activity	1.5%	Network in-country Research	7.4%
		On-the-job Training	6.2%
		Other support to training and meetings	6.7%
Sub-total %	37.3%	Sub-total %	62.7%

Low to Middle Research Capacity	% of Total	Partner Countries Stronger in Forestry Research	% of Total
SE Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar)	48.0	PR China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand	17.2
South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka)	21.1		
Pacific (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)	13.7		
Sub-total %	82.8	Sub-total %	17.2

B. Activities and Outputs

Regional Level

Among the regional level activities, the development and strengthening of APAFRI was foremost in importance. The other planned activities were to assist in developing thematic research networks, regional databases, and regionally important studies on important forestry issues.

Assistance to APAFRI (Output 1.1):

Between 1996 – May 2001, FORSPA provided US\$216,000 to support APAFRI activities, including for annual Executive Committee meetings, four training courses on Forestry Research Strategy Formulation, Planning and Management at UPM and UPLB and APAFRI's newsletter and publications. Besides FORSPA, APAFRI had other donors, most notably the CIDA-funded TREELINK project. TREELINK had limited geographical spread (Southeast Asian countries) and objectives, providing fellowships and arranging forestry

literature (e-loan scheme) to forestry students of three universities (UPM, Malaysia; UPLB, Philippines; Kasetsart University, Thailand). It is now planning to organize the training of young forestry researchers in handling of digital database and plans to compile the common forestry research problems and successful research technologies. TREELINK was a fairly big project (Canadian \$3.5 million over 4 years) and required considerable time and energy from APAFRI.

APAFRI was founded in 1995 and originally housed at RAP, Bangkok but shifted to Univeristi Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 1997. Reportedly due to dissatisfaction with the functioning of APAFRI at UPM, a consensus was reached in 2000 at the Executive Committee meeting of APAFRI to move its secretariat to the Forest Research Institute, Malaysia (FRIM). Some of the reasons for the dissatisfaction were:

- location in an academic institution;
- lack of a permanent executive manager and absence of direction from executive committee members, who were already fully engaged in other activities;
- composition of executive committee members was not well representative of the region;
- low level of activity, and this in turn has reduced support from member countries;
- activities being confined to a few institutions, mainly academic agencies;

In fact, many of the causes of the dissatisfaction had their root cause in the presence of the TREELINK project. APAFRI appeared to be concerned mainly with the three institutions that worked most closely with TREELINK, which of course was providing substantial funding to APAFRI.

Under the Letter of Agreement between FORSPA and APAFRI, the latter was required to submit a final accomplishment report and statement of accounts in 1999, but this was not done until April 2001. This resulted in non-release of further installments of FORSPA grants. APAFRI has since now submitted these reports, and the release of funds for future activities may soon start.

In retrospect, it is unfortunate that FORSPA has not played a more direct role in influencing the development of APAFRI. Its financial leverage was less than that of TREELINK and its physical distance from a relocated APAFRI may have played a role. However, the mission is hopeful that recent changes in APAFRI management may result in improvements and this should be a key focus of a Phase III project.

Development of Regional Databases (Output 1.2):

Directory of forestry research professionals in the Asia-Pacific:

FORSPA published first directory in 1993. During Phase II, questionnaires for updating the directory were sent to all forestry research institutions. Details were collected and compiled in respect of 790 researchers. The represents only a fraction of the number of researchers in the region and on the whole the response rate has been poor despite the fact that reminders were sent to research institutions.

Directory of selected Tropical Forestry Journals and Newsletter:

This was jointly organized by FAO-RAP and FORSPA. FORSPA facilitated compilation of information on forestry web-sites. This directory provides information on 449 tropical forestry journals and newsletters as also 360 forestry-based web-sites.

Database on ongoing and completed forestry research projects:

This database is available in CD-ROM. This is a test version containing information on more than 1040 research projects from 14 countries. Three hundred copies of the CD-ROM have been produced and about 100 have been distributed. Some comments have been received making suggestions for improvements. These include improving the format of presentation with successive options given the users, improving the quality of information, and enhancing the coverage.

Regional Networks (Output 2.1):

FORSPA initiated regional networks on different research themes viz.,

Teaknet

Asia-Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFRen)

Sissoo Network

These networks were initiated on the basis of identified important problems of forestry research emerging from the discussion among member countries. FORSPA facilitated the establishment of the networks. However, it was neither desirable nor feasible to set any physical target for the activities of such networks. From the mission's visits and discussions, it is evident that the regional networks were well appreciated by member countries.

Network-specific activities, outputs and suggested further actions are as follows:

Teaknet

Teaknet has become an independent network maintained by the Forest Department, Yangon, Myanmar. It was created to provide the latest information on nursery plantation technology, with a view to expanding the area under teak plantation. It also promoted exchange of genetic material between members for provenance work supported by FORSPA included: trials. Specific

- two seminars and a proposed third one, including support for participants from member countries;
- two publications (23/1999, 24/2000 from FORSPA) relating to the first seminar on Site, Technology and Productivity of Teak Plantations. The proceedings of the second seminar (Potentials and Opportunities in Marketing and Trade of Plantation Teak) will also be published.

Teak is commercially an important timber species with very wide occurrence. The network is fully functional. In view of its commercial importance, the private sector has shown considerable interest in the activities and research results of Teaknet. After termination of FORSPA, APAFRI should facilitate the functioning of Teaknet if needed

Tree Nutrition Research in the South Pacific:

This was a project based collaborative arrangement (Nutrition of Tropical Hardwood Plantation Species in the South Pacific) involving the Department of Forestry in Fiji, the Department of Forestry in Samoa, CSIRO and FORSPA. The objectives of the project were:

- to compare nutrient requirements and define protocols and detection of critical values for detection of nutritional deficiencies;

- to develop nursery and field techniques;
- to make preliminary estimates of nutritional loss due to harvesting; and
- to provide relevant training in nutrition research techniques to national staff involved in the project.

The project focused on five species namely *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Fildersia brayleyana*, *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea* and *Eucalyptus deglupta*.

CSIRO provided the technical support for the project (based on ACIAR funding) while FORSPA provided financial support for the in-country activities in Fiji and Samoa as also supported research meetings. A report on the accomplishments has been prepared which indicates that both Fiji and Samoa have also been able to develop and adapt techniques for production of potting media for raising high quality planting materials. Funds have been made available for the project activities during 1999 and the progress is monitored regularly. The collaborative arrangement has been concluded in 2000 and FORSPA will fund the participation of the researchers from Fiji and Samoa in a regional workshop to discuss the outcome of the study.

Asia Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFReN):

Rehabilitation of logged over natural forests is one of the important areas for research and development in the region and efforts are underway to establish the Asia Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFReN) to be coordinated by FRIM. This initiative originated during a FRIM-FORSPA meeting held at Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia in November 1997 attended by eighteen participants from India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The objectives of APFReN are: (a) to facilitate exchange of information on technologies of rehabilitation, (b) develop a core group of experts, especially in the countries where such expertise is not available and (c) facilitate the establishment of a network of large demonstration sites (100 ha) in the region, specifically in countries where the know-how on rehabilitation is very limited.

Demonstration sites have been established in Lao PDR (100 ha) and Vietnam (109 ha). A letter of agreement has been drawn up with the Department of Forestry, Lao PDR for undertaking follow up activities in 1999 and 2000. The Forest Science Institute of Vietnam has completed the first phase of establishing the demonstration site and a proposal for follow up activities during 1999 and 2000 has been prepared.

The Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Cambodia furnished a proposal for establishment of a demonstration site. This has been reviewed and necessary technical and financial support made. The Forest Department, Sri Lanka has identified a site for establishment of a demonstration site. Based on the recommendations of the APFReN coordinator, the Forest Department has completed a transect survey to make a preliminary assessment of tree growth and regeneration. The Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute has also made arrangements for the establishment of a demonstration site in Medang. One of the researchers from PNGFRI is undergoing training at FRIM on rehabilitation research and is expected to pursue the establishment of the demonstration site after he completes the training

Dalbergia sissoo network

Sissoo is an important species of South Asia preferred by farmers, forest departments and other tree growers. These have been serious die-back problems. Network members held a workshop in Kathmandu and its proceedings have been published with FORSPA assistance. This network is operated by Nepal Forest Department in Kathmandu. Having identified the causative factors for mortality, Nepal and Pakistan have asked for some more financial assistance to tackle the problem.

Logging Ban study

There is no formal network on the subject. However, a FORSPA-sponsored case study from Sri Lanka was presented to the Asia and Pacific Forestry Commission in May 2000. This subject is of great concern, particularly to the countries of Southeast Asia, where unscientific logging by concessionaires has caused extensive damage to forest stocking. The proposed study seeks to evaluate the impact of excluding logging from these areas.

Other Networks with FORSPA involvement

FORSPA has supported attendance by regional scientists at meetings of other networks in the region, including the Neem network with headquarters at FAO Rome, the *Dipterocarps* network run by FRIM.

Association with bilateral programmes

Due to its flexibility, FORSPA was able to be associated with several activities of bilateral donors. FORSPA co-organized Regional Workshop on Conservation Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Southeast Asia with the DANIDA-funded Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management Project (FORGENMAP). It supported two participants from Philippines and Malaysia to attend the workshop. It also joined APAFRI and FRIM to co-organize a workshop on the status of knowledge on the potential for markets to emerge from carbon sinks.

Gender Issues in development and adoption of forestry technologies (Output 2.2):

A position paper on “Gender and Technology Issues in Forest and Tree Resource Management” was prepared. It considers issues like impact of new technologies on employment and income of women. Although it was proposed to initiate country studies on the subject, the MTE noted that such stand-alone efforts may not have much effect. It recommended that gender concerns and concern with less advantaged people should be mainstreamed in FORSPA’s work, particularly in national training courses and the development of strategies. However, no further gender activities were undertaken.

Country Level Activities

Four categories of activities were planned at country level:

- (i) Assistance in formulation of forestry research strategies and plans;
- (ii) Human resource development;
- (iii) Information support services;
- (iv) Twinning arrangements for collaborative networks between institutions.

These activities were more focused on extending assistance to the countries with least developed forestry research institutions. Some of the major activities at country-level are summarize below:

Table 4: Total number of activities and extent of participation from countries

Name of Country	No. of Participants
Southeast Asia and China	
1. China	35
2. Vietnam	60
3. Cambodia	23
4. Lao PDR	33
5. Indonesia	7
6. Malaysia	5
7. Myanmar	29
8. Thailand	5
9. Philippines	6
Total	203
South Asia	
10. India	8
11. Pakistan	6
12. Bangladesh	9
13. Nepal	9
14. Bhutan	21
15. Sri Lanka	20
Total	73
Pacific Region	
16. Papua New Guinea	39
17. Solomon Islands	3
18. Samoa	1
19. Fiji	3
Total	46
Grand Total	322

Overall breakdown by sub-region

Southeast Asia and China	63%
South Asia	23%
Pacific	14%

Research planning support (Output 3.1):

The project selected nine countries, three from South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Pakistan), four from Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Myanmar) and two from the Pacific (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) for this assistance.

Progress by country is summarized in Table 5:

Table 5: Research Planning Support to Countries

Country	Main activities and outputs
1. Cambodia	(i) National Research Seminar (7.5.97) identified research priorities with regard to (a) natural forest management, (b) afforestation, (c) wildlife and biodiversity conservation (ii) Report published (FORSPA-18/1999) (iii) Provided with services of an international consultant (iv) Developed framework for the organization and structure of the Forestry and Wildlife Research Institute (v) Technical and financial support to establish 112 sample plots to assess growth and yield.
2. Lao PDR	(i) National Research Planning Seminar and Publications (FORSPA 17/1998) (ii) Workshop on organization of research and information system (February 1998) (iii) Discussion workshop on NTFP in 1999
3. Sri Lanka	(i) Workshop and proceedings (FORSPA 21/1998) (ii) Engaged ex-FAO staff member to complete the research strategy plan.
4. Vietnam	(i) Preparation of background papers on key aspects of research and development through FSIV (ii) Fielding of an international consultant to help prepare plan (Field Document No. 5 and No.8) (iii) National workshop on formulation of strategy and publication of proceeding (FORSPA 22/1998) (iv) Plan is being edited
5. Myanmar	(i) Research status of FRI, Yezin has been reviewed (Field Document No.8) (ii) Workshop organized (15-17 June 1999) to develop research programmes and to shift from current project-based approach.
6. Solomon Islands	(i) National consultant engaged to review forestry research (ii) Preparation of a draft strategy by SPA FORSPA (iii) Being reviewed by Commissioner of Forests, Forestry Dept.
7. Pakistan	(i) Meeting of representatives from the Forestry Research Institutions at the federal and provincial level (10 February 1999) to discuss the main research issues and necessary steps to develop strategy (ii) Preparation of proposal

8. Papua New Guinea	(i) National seminar (ii) Prepare draft strategy (iii) Review of draft completed.
9. Bhutan	(i) National seminar (ii) Research strategy finalized

The mission examined the various research strategies prepared under the project, the results of which appear as Table 6 below. In most cases, a complete process was followed, including consultant assistance, training opportunities at selected institutions, preparation of a status report and national workshops to discuss strategy. Research priorities were established after a process of consultation, but use was not made of an objective scoring system or matrix to establish priorities. Funding from private sources was not considered in any of the plans; all funding was intended to come either from donors or the national budget.

Table 6: Qualitative assessment of forestry research strategies in some FORSPA member countries

Countries	Process for prioritization	How research priorities established	Existing funding sources	Quality of institutional structure research planning	Inter-sectoral linkages
1. Bhutan	Partial consultant helped in Statistical course	Fairly participatory, Regional to National Level	Public/donors	Weak; integrated with Forest Dept.	Present
2. Cambodia	Consultant provided, status report, seminar	Participatory but no Scoring used	Public/donors	Did not exist; being Organized	Partial
3. Lao PDR	as Cambodia	Participatory but no Scoring used	Public/donors	Did not exist, being Organized	Partial
4. Myanmar	Partial, discussion	Top-down	Public/donors	Good but being re-organized	Poor
5. Pakistan	Partial, help of consultant and meetings	Top-down	Public/donors	Good but being re-organized	Poor
6. Papua New Guinea	Complete, consultant, status report, national seminars	Participatory but no scoring used	Public/donors	Weak, being re-organized	Partial
7. Sri Lanka	Complete, like Papua New Guinea	Participatory but no Scoring used	Public/donors	Weak, forest research wing in Forest Department	Poor
8. Solomon Islands	Complete, like Papua New Guinea	Participatory but no scoring used	Public/donors	Weak, integrated with Forest Department	Absent
9. Vietnam	Complete, as above	Participatory but no scoring used	Public/donors	Well established FSIV	Present

The choice of countries for this project component was appropriate and the exercise was considered to be valuable in all countries as it exposed new methods of planning. There is still a need to advance the process further in some of the countries and this would be a subject for attention of a Phase III FORSPA project.

Human Resource Development (Output 3.2)

Training in research strategy formulation: Under this activity 34 persons were trained in two different programmes. UPM organized two training each of two weeks duration (November 1996 and May 1998) in which 13 persons were trained: 8 from South East Asia and China, 3 from South Asia and 2 from South Pacific. In November, 1997, a country level workshop was organized in China in which 21 persons were trained.

Training course on research project design, proposed preparation, research methodology, monitoring and evaluation and scientific writing: The project document envisaged the training of 50 middle level and young researchers in the preparation and appraisal of research projects, research methodology, logical framework analysis and scientific writing.

Three weeks' training was organized by Institute of Forest Conservation UPLB in March 1997 and May 1998 for 33 researchers from 9 countries. The mission was able to interact with only two persons who received the training in UPLB. Both found it useful but were unable to apply the knowledge gained in their present positions as they do not prepare proposals. There was a general consensus that in-country training was more productive and cost-effective.

Besides the UPLB course, a three-week training course was conducted on statistical techniques in Bhutan during April-May 1999 at which 21 researchers and foresters from Bhutan were trained. A two-week training course was conducted on statistical techniques in Sri Lanka (August-September 1999) that was attended by 15 researchers and foresters.

In country-meetings: The project also supported eight in-country meetings. Six meetings/seminars were on research strategy and planning (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands). Meetings on research information systems and on research priorities of non-timber forest products (NTFP) were also held in Lao PDR.

On-the-Job Training: Six on-the-job training activities were facilitated by FORSPA. The training was provided at facilities of member countries.

Table 7: On the job training in special research problems

<u>Training Subject and Country</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Culturing and inoculation of Mycorrhiza at Tata Energy Research Institute, India	Vietnam
Bamboo Histology at FRI, Dehra Dun, India	Vietnam
Training in Library Management and information technology at Philippines (UPLB)	Bhutan, Lao PDR (2), Myanmar and Vietnam
(a) Training in Teak genetic resource conservation and improvement (b) clonal propagation of teak Both at Chiang Mai University	Lao PDR (7)
Training in rehabilitation of logged over natural forests at FRIM, Malaysia	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

Such on-the-job training helped the National Research Centres/Institutions develop their own capacity in the subject.

Support to attend Meetings and Conferences: This was an equally important activity to build awareness among researchers of the member countries. The project organized or supported nine regional meetings and sponsored various participants from member countries (one meeting each in 1997 and 1998; two in 1999, three in 2000, and two in 2001). Three more meetings are to be organized by FORSPA in 2001. The meetings provided an excellent opportunity for participants to share experiences.. The Regional and sub-regional meetings sponsored by FORSPA resulted in publication of the proceedings, or other reports. These reports were brought out as FORSPA publications and distributed among all the countries. The choice of subjects and the venue of the Regional meetings were praised by persons interviewed as important and useful.

The human resources development component has been implemented in a flexible way with regard to topics for training. The success of this component rests on the matching of appropriate training activities and participants. FORSPA management has been keenly aware of this and has sometimes rejected unsuitable applicants. Continued success of this component depends on a strong role by project management.

Information support services (Output 3.3)

Reviews of information systems: With the help of CABI, FORSPA undertook a review of forestry information systems in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. This formed the basis for provision of further support, especially for provision of hardware and software, training and follow up technical support.

Provision of hardware and software: The project provided computers with CD-ROM to Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Papua New Guinea. Fourteen forestry research institutions in the Region are being supplied with TREE-CD¹ updates.

Subscriptions to publications: A subscription to Forestry Abstracts is being provided to eight institutions and Agroforestry Abstracts to one institution. CABI provides the subscription at special rates.

Training: During 1996 FORSPA through CABI arranged hands-on training for 51 researchers/forestry professionals from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam in the use of CD-ROM and retrieval of information from TREE-CDs. On-the-job training was provided to 5 persons (from Bhutan, Lao PDR (2), Myanmar, and Vietnam) in library management at the main library of the UPLB. FORSPA sponsored four participants to attend the training course on emerging information technologies and CDS/ISIS at the Asia Institute of Technology (from Myanmar, Lao PDR, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea).

Technical support: The project fielded library management and information specialists from Thailand to advise and assist in the development of the library of the Forest Research Centre, Department of Forestry, Lao PDR.

Network on Forestry Information Services in Asia Pacific: Following the Discussion Forum on Forestry Information Services in Asia and the Pacific held at Bogor during October-November 1996, FORSPA has been coordinating the development of the network. The profile of network member institutions providing information capabilities, strengths, constraints, etc. has been collected and provided to all the network members. There are 16 libraries/institutions involved in the network and periodic updates are prepared by FORSPA to facilitate information exchange. Members in the network have been encouraged to interact with each other and to share the resources.

The MTE had made a recommendation that a suitable person was needed to develop and manage national libraries and information systems. It was suggested that selection of librarians for training abroad to be linked to appointment of a suitable person for the job. The mission visited libraries in Lao PDR, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. The concerned persons have been trained in library information system and are organizing the work satisfactorily. However, use may be rather limited of some of the information materials provided through the project.

¹ Electronic version of Forestry Abstracts

Twinning Arrangements (Output 3.4)

There were four twinning arrangements, two involving FRIM (with FRI Papua New Guinea and Forest Science Institute, Vietnam); and two involving Chiang Mai University (with Central South Forest University, China and Lao PDR). While work under these arrangements is still at an early stage, collaboration between FRIM and Papua New Guinea has been particularly successful thus far.

More effort could be made in future to twin the countries of South Asia (Bhutan and/or Nepal with an Indian Institution) along the lines suggested by the MTE.

C. Government Support

At a policy level, FORSPA has enjoyed good support and recognition within the region and its direct assistance to member countries has been appreciated. Countries were particularly enthusiastic about the various training programmes and information support that they had received from FORSPA. At a material level, FORSPA member countries have not had to provide any support to the project.

Countries recognize that eventually FORSPA will cease to exist as a project and that APAFRI will progressively take over the networking and information exchange role. While all FORSPA countries except Lao PDR have membership in APAFRI, there is apparent dissatisfaction concerning the operation of APAFRI by many of its members. The new management of APAFRI has a major job ahead to restore the lost confidence that is particularly apparent in countries of South Asia and the Pacific.

D. Project Management

The project is staffed by a Senior Adviser, who is assisted by an APO and administrative support staff. Successful execution of the project thus depended to a large degree on the presence and direction of the Senior Adviser. All three Senior Advisers have been technically proficient and hard working. Unfortunately, however, the project suffered about one year of discontinuity in leadership. The original Senior Adviser left the project in September 1999 and the project had two temporary officers-in-charge until a new Senior Adviser was appointed in December 1999. However, he left the project after only 5 months, in May 2000. The present incumbent took up his duties in June 2000.

Project management has generally been very good. Reporting has been complete and project files are meticulously kept. Effective project management did suffer from the physical transfer of APAFRI from Thailand to Malaysia in 1997. The evident decline of confidence in APAFRI dates from this move.

The FORSPA Advisory Group has met regularly on an annual basis. The Advisory Group is useful for maintaining informal contacts among members and for discussions on workshop topics

that are always held in conjunction with the Advisory Group meeting. Annual work plans and progress reports are presented to the meeting and there is opportunity for discussion of them.

E. Technical and Operational Backstopping

The project's physical location in RAP has facilitated contacts with technical and operations staff as necessary. Technical and operating responsibilities for the project are entirely decentralized to Bangkok and the project has no reporting channel to FAO Headquarters, except for communication with the donor. However, good support has been received on occasion from the FAO Forest Resources Division. Since the dissolution of the Operations Unit in April 2001, the Senior Forestry Officer, RAP has become the Budget Holder for the project and retains operational responsibilities. Contact with the Senior Forestry Officer in RAP is useful and frequent.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

A. Effects, Impact and Sustainability of Results

Establishment of APAFRI

The establishment of APAFRI can be considered as the most important aspect of the project strategy, because through APAFRI several of the current FORSPA activities would be continued in the future. Although APAFRI was established in 1995, it has still not reached the stage of full operational self-sufficiency. In the report of the mid-term evaluation, it was recommended that FORSPA give absolute priority to the establishment of APAFRI as focal point for cooperation in forestry research in the region and as a key information provider. The report also stated that it was unlikely that APAFRI would reach a sustainable take off level by the end of the project.

APAFRI has gained prestige in the region by being recognized as the Asia-Pacific chapter of IUFRO. However, it has been very slow to take on information dissemination activities, network sponsoring and organization of regional research meetings. For instance, the databases about forestry researchers and forestry research projects, developed by FORSPA in 1992 and 1998 respectively, were transferred to APAFRI in 1998, to be maintained and updated. However, this has not been done yet, even though FORSPA had offered funding assistance for it. While APAFRI has organized some workshops and meetings, the quality of documentation and reporting has not been adequate. The APAFRI Executive Committee meeting attended by the mission would have profited from a more directed agenda and being geared to producing decisions.

The connection of APAFRI to the CIDA-funded TREELINK project could have produced an opportunity for APAFRI to enhance its status. This was noted by the mid-term evaluation, which stressed the importance of coordination between FORSPA and TREELINK. However the effect of TREELINK on APAFRI has been less than expected, due to its limited mandate related to documentation improvement and focus only on countries in Southeast Asia. The impression among some members is that APAFRI is not relevant to them as it gives too much of its attention to TREELINK. The fact that APAFRI until now has not produced any progress reports has added to this impression.

The eventual sustainability of APAFRI is not easy to predict, but it is questionable in the long term if no further action is taken to strengthen APAFRI and specially prepare it further to implement the tasks indicated in its constitution. An important aspect of APAFRI's sustainability is the commitment by its members to support the organization, for instance by delivering occasionally voluntary services. This situation will develop only if the member institutions see clear benefits from being a member, which is now insufficiently the case.

Another negative factor concerning the sustainability of APAFRI at this critical point is that FAO will be able to offer only limited technical support, unless a Phase III is approved. A commitment to technically support APAFRI is mentioned in the Phase II project document, but

resources of the FAO Regular Programme are more constrained now than they were when the project was approved.

The financial sustainability of APAFRI cannot be met by income through membership fees only as these have been set at a ludicrously low level. APAFRI will have to continue looking for other sources of income. However, APAFRI should make sure that there is a reasonable balance between time spent on fund raising activities (including implementing projects to earn money) and time spent on servicing its members at large. Indications are that currently APAFRI spends insufficient time servicing its members. A process of alienation has started, which if not reversed will lead to APAFRI being unable to perform a useful role.

Research networks establishment

The network on *Dalbergia sissoo* has been successful as four South Asian countries in common have found solutions to the die back of Sissoo. Since this is a locally favoured indigenous species, this activity should have a positive impact, leading to Sissoo being planted more widely than in the past.

The effects of the other networks are somewhat less clear up to now. The APFReN network has six participating countries. Due to the nature of this activity, impact will not be discernible for some time. However, there should be positive effects from enhanced international collaboration.

The network on tree nutrition in the South Pacific, although covering only two small countries during its existence, led to valuable results in the form of high quality potting media used for raising planting material.

TEAKNET has been extremely successful in that it now operates independently and its activities have attracted great interest throughout the region, due to the obvious economic significance of teak. This network has already proven to be sustainable.

The selection of topics for networks thus far has been very good. The main factors for success have been clear benefits within a reasonable time period, such as with the Sissoo and tree nutrition networks, and selection of topics of considerable common interest, like TEAKNET. The APFReN network will require more attention because it will not produce quick results. Much of its eventual success may depend on the commitment of the participants, and on the dynamics and facilitation skills of APAFRI.

Gender and enhanced access of technologies to disadvantaged groups

Socio-economic, gender and participation aspects have received very little attention, despite a focus on these in the project document. Rural communities, women and farmers are mentioned as ultimate beneficiaries together with Forest Departments, the neglect of the informal sector is mentioned as a problem to be addressed and approaches were to be elaborated to reach the ultimate beneficiaries.

Interviews with representatives of forest research organisations revealed also that in many countries, prioritization and decision-making about issues to be researched takes place in a traditional, non-participatory way. Usually only government officials are involved in this process. Sometimes environmental NGOs take part, more rarely do organizations representing local peoples' interests. Since this component has hardly been implemented, it has had no effects or impact.

Research planning support

The effects in this area have been generally positive in those countries that received this type of support. Several of the assisted countries have young forest research institutions, others had research strategies which urgently needed review. The actual drafting and the approval of research strategies is often a time consuming process. In nearly all countries assisted by the project, the strategy is still not completed. The activity has had an important training effect, through participation in workshops and international contacts. The impact will become clear only after time.

Human Resource Development

The project has trained a large number of persons in a variety of topics. FORSPA has made a serious effort to ensure that the appropriate candidates were selected for training and rejected unqualified nominees in some cases. Until 1999, FORSPA provided questionnaires to trainees on their training some six months after the completion of each course. However, there does not appear to have been an analysis made. cursory review of the questionnaires evidenced apparent satisfaction with the training and its appropriateness. In addition, it was reported from several countries that staff trained through FORSPA subsequently organized national training courses to further transfer knowledge gained.

Countries of the region have uneven access to resources for training from donors. Some have ample resources, others very little. The consequences of withdrawal of FORSPA assistance will be variable. However, the evaluation mission questionnaire showed that almost all countries valued highly the international contacts that probably would not take place if FORSPA ended.

Information technology

The effect in this area is generally not impressive. Of the ten countries that replied to the mission questionnaire, only two (China and Thailand, both relatively well developed) considered information technology as a most useful FORSPA activity. Libraries visited in Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Lao PDR were not impressive. In Sri Lanka, a part of the library was converted to offices, leaving less space for the same amount of books; in Lao PDR the responsibility for the library has moved back and forth between Forest Research and Forest Department. In one case, staff had difficulties in using the electronic search facilities.

Building up information facilities is a slow and difficult process, but essential for forest research institutes. It is not clear how sustainable this output will be, especially in the poor countries of the region, due to high costs to maintain the facilities.

Twinning arrangements

It is still too early to judge the impact of this output, because improved results in the field as a result of this collaborative activities are long-term. The sustainability of this output is promising, but depends on the continuing commitment of the parties. APAFRI should play a role in facilitating the arrangements if necessary.

B. Environmental Impact of Results

The environmental impact of the project will be positive but indirect. The positive impact will be caused through improved implementation of forest research, resulting in better and more relevant results of research, contributing to a more rational management of forests.

C. Gender Equity in Project Implementation and Results

As noted previously, measures taken by the project concerning gender issues were very limited. It should be noted that in many countries the number of women in working in forest research and suitable for capacity building activities is rather limited. This could be different however if forest research institutes would pay more attention to the social aspects of forestry.

D. Cost-effectiveness

The approach to encourage member countries take up the responsibility of organizing different activities was a cost-effective strategy and allowed FORSPA to maintain a very small secretariat, thus saving on administrative costs. Over time, the project became more cost-effective with respect to training as it moved progressively to in-country activities. Quality does not appear to have suffered as a result. Twinning arrangements, although still in their infancy, are likely to be a very cost-effective strategy.

A successful transfer of a number of activities from FORSPA to APAFRI would have been cost-effective, as well as promoting their future sustainability.

VII. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings and recommendations of the mission are given below in general and then by the various project components. A few recommendations are given for the remaining project period, but recommendations for new initiatives can be implemented only if funding is secured for a Phase III project.

General: Overall, the mission finds that FORSPA Phase II has been relevant to the needs of member countries of the region and is highly appreciated by them. The project is also appreciated by CIFOR, which found FORSPA highly complementary to its own work. The project has made valuable contributions, particularly in research planning, furthering professional contact among forestry researchers and improvement of information availability. The project has addressed important issues in forestry research and has been a leading force in advancing regional thought on key matters.

It is therefore **recommended** that donors favourably consider the funding of a Phase III FORSPA project. Such a project would have a duration of three years, ideally without interruption from the Phase II and would expressly be recognized as a final phase of assistance, with a focus on consolidating achievements. Besides establishment of a fully-functioning APAFRI, the Phase III would focus on finishing work begun under Phase II. Suggestions for work to be done under Phase III are mentioned under the various headings below.

It may prove difficult to find a new FORSPA donor before the expiration of the Phase II project in December 2001. Accordingly, and so not to lose continuity, it is **recommended** that the Government of the Netherlands approve a final six-month extension to the project **within the existing budget**. The extension would permit operational activities to proceed, as well as maintaining FORSPA's technical presence. This will also ensure that the recommended activities aimed at strengthening APAFRI will take place in a timely fashion before a Phase III would begin.

One of the difficult tasks of the proposed Phase III will be for FORSPA to merge its identity with that of APAFRI, which will take over all networking, coordination and information management activities at the end of Phase III. While there have been numerous advantages to the location of FORSPA within the FAO Regional Office, including administrative efficiencies, good communications and opportunities for continuous interaction with FAO forestry staff, there were also disadvantages in terms of assisting in the establishment of APAFRI. As a result, and because of the overriding importance of establishing APAFRI on solid ground, it is **recommended** that project headquarters for FORSPA Phase III be shifted to Kuala Lumpur, if possible at FRIM. The present state of affairs at APAFRI has arisen because it did not receive sufficient and constant support during Phase II and this recommendation aims to overcome that constraint.

APAFRI: One of the main objectives of FORSPA Phase II was to develop and strengthen APAFRI to take over its functions with respect to networking and information exchange on a sustainable basis. Progress on this objective has been disappointing, even though it was flagged as a major priority for the remaining project period by the 1998 mid-term evaluation.

Whether or not there is a Phase III FORSPA project, APAFRI will continue to exist and attempt to carry out its constitutionally mandated functions. As a matter of urgency, FORSPA should devote most of its attention in the remaining project period to strengthening APAFRI. In particular, APAFRI lacks management skills in running a regional network and would benefit greatly from specialized technical assistance in this area. It is **recommended** that during the remaining period of Phase II, FORSPA should organize and either fund itself, or preferably seek funding assistance through the Special Programme for Developing Countries facility of IUFRO, for an experienced management consultant to work with the APAFRI secretariat. The consultant would give general advice and on-the-job training in networking and information management and should also advise on possible methods for accessing funds for recurrent expenditure related to networking and information management. The experience of APAARI could be useful in this respect. Ideally, such a consultancy would be for 3-4 months, with perhaps two two-week follow-up visits at subsequent six month intervals.

APAFRI has not yet developed a work plan for its operational activities and it is **recommended** that this be done as a matter of urgency that FORSPA should organize during the next six months of FORSPA Phase II and prior to commencement of a FORSPA Phase III. The work plan should cover the next two years and should indicate priority areas for collaborative research work among APAFRI members, plans for assuming responsibilities for networks begun under FORSPA, plans for development of information exchange and documentation to be produced. In preparing the work plan, views of actual and potential member institutions should be sought and the eventual work plan should attempt to cater to the interests of all countries of the region to the extent possible. It is **recommended** that FORSPA assist in this task by helping to identify a group, which may also include eminent persons from outside the region, to assist APAFRI in this process. Such a group may eventually form the nucleus of a more permanent Advisory Committee.

The experience with the TREELINK project, with its narrow focus compared to the overall mandate of APAFRI and its focus on only some countries, has led to alienation among various members of APAFRI. While the urge to implement projects and earn income is strong, it can also have negative consequences. Therefore, it is **recommended** that FORSPA communicates this message to APAFRI and counsels it to accept projects which benefit the membership broadly and in line with APAFRI's mandate.

Geographical focus: Countries of South Asia, with generally large populations have received relatively less attention in the project. The perception of lack of attention to South Asia has been enhanced by the presence in APAFRI of the TREELINK project, which is restricted to countries of Southeast Asia. In order to counteract this perception among member countries of South Asia, it is **recommended** in Phase III that special efforts be made to focus on problems of particular interest to South Asia.

Networking: With varying degrees of support, FORSPA has established four regional networks, two of which have largely completed their work (tree nutrition research in the South Pacific, *Dalbergia sissoo* network in South Asia) and two of which will likely continue (TEAKNET and APFReN), although APFReN will require additional inputs from FORSPA in order to be sustainable.

There is a permanent need for information exchange and networking, which can be a very cost-effective part of a strategy for addressing issues and is a core function of APAFRI. It is **recommended** that, should there be a Phase III FORSPA project, it could assist APAFRI in its formative years to develop more networks on issues of common interest.

Past experience with networks has shown that the most successful are often temporary ones set up to address a particular problem or issue and once solutions are decided, the network ceases to exist. It is **recommended** that FORSPA/APAFRI seek out in particular this type of networking possibility, such as was done for the work in Phase II on *Dalbergia sissoo*.

Socio-economic focus: FORSPA has done little to address socio-economic issues. With few exceptions, forest research institutes seem either not interested to include these aspects, or do not know how to incorporate them in their programmes. The mission does not advocate turning natural science-based organizations into socio-economic research institutes, but sees a need to more integrate socio-economic consciousness into forestry research, strategy and training. Accordingly, it is **recommended** that much more focus could be placed on the role of socio-economics in a Phase III FORSPA and that such matters be brought to the attention of APAFRI and forest research institutes, using various means of communication.

Research planning support: Research planning has been considered one of the important contributions of FORSPA. The amount of work in each of the nine countries assisted has varied, but the normal progression has been background studies, followed by a national workshop/seminar, and then publication of the plan. In some cases, there has been input by an FAO consultant. The planning is at various stages depending on the country, but only in one case (Bhutan) has the strategy been completed. Given the priority to work concerning APAFRI and seeking a Phase III extension, it is unlikely but desirable that the project can devote much attention to bringing along further research planning in the countries. However, should there be a Phase III, it is **recommended** that plans be drawn up by FORSPA for completing the work to the extent possible in each country where there is still interest in pursuing it. It is further **recommended** that an eventual Phase III could usefully synthesize the results of the research planning support activities in a technical document that could draw lessons for similar activities in future.

Information support services: FORSPA has turned over to APAFRI the responsibility for maintaining the data bases on researchers in the Asia and Pacific region and on-going and completed research activities. Clearly the credibility and utility of APAFRI is dependent on the maintenance and updating of these data bases, but this is not now being done. It is **recommended** that FORSPA during the remaining period of Phase II strongly exert its influence to ensure that this updating becomes a programmed part of APAFRI's regular work and resources be devoted to it.

The mission was unable to obtain hard data about the use being made of support provided to countries in information support during Phase II. However, anecdotal evidence indicates that little use is being made in some countries at present. While there would be a case for extending similar support in an eventual Phase III to other less developed countries, the decision should take into account likely use.

Human resources development: The project has followed a variety of mechanisms for training, including on-the-job training in special research problems, in-country meetings, external training courses, study tours and attendance at international meetings and conferences. Over time, there has been a shift toward more emphasis on in-country training and this is to be commended. As could be expected, there was a decline in the amount of training when the project was without a Senior Adviser. It is **recommended** that an eventual Phase III FORSPA project continue to assess forestry research training needs and implement high priority training activities, should funding be available.

VIII. LESSONS LEARNED

The main lesson learned has been that institutional establishment (in this case, of APAFRI) has been a more difficult process than was foreseen in the project document. A major problem is the flow of income to cover operational expenses. An organisation like APAFRI, which is supposed to 'service' its members and taking care of its interests, can keep on functioning only when its members are committed to it. The members will understand that their organisation cannot operate from membership fees only, but an acceptable balance of attention is needed between general, overall interests of members and special attention that must necessarily be paid to activities funded for the benefit of only a segment of the membership. Such a balancing act requires special and particular management skills.

The impact of this project in terms of improved management of forests and improved availability of forest products was to be reached through the implementation of more relevant research and the better use of research products. For this process, the prioritization and taking of decisions about research topics has a big influence. While in several countries progress has been made in the development of forest research strategies and plans, the setting of priorities often still takes place in a rather traditional way. While representatives from other government agencies may be invited to contribute to this process, representatives of other stakeholders are rarely invited. When it comes to taking of decisions a participatory approach is even more rarely applied. While it is acknowledged by a significant number of researchers that local people are (or should be) one of the groups benefitting from forest research, they are often not involved in this process. FORSPA has promoted a participatory process but effects on decision-making are bound to be gradual – sometimes frustratingly so.

Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (GCP/RAS/163/NET)

Terminal Evaluation Mission

Terms of Reference

1. BACKGROUND

Project objectives

Long-term Development Objective:

The long-term development objective of the project is to promote conservation and sustainable management of forest and tree resources in the Asia Pacific and to enhance the availability of a range of products and services from these resources.

Immediate Objectives:

1. To develop and strengthen the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) through providing technical and managerial support for networking including organisation of meetings and seminars, development of supporting data bases, publication of monographs, case studies and newsletters.
2. To support networks on topics of regional and national significance and undertake studies with regard to development and adaptation of technologies by disadvantaged groups like women and to sensitise researchers and users of research to incorporate the social, economic and cultural dimensions in technologies on conservation, management and utilisation of forest and tree resources.
3. To assist capacity building in forestry research in countries with insufficiently developed research systems through research planning support; training increased access to information and establish twinning arrangements to facilitate technology transfer and adaptation.

Planned major outputs

For Immediate Objective 1):

- 1.1 Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) established and made fully operational.
- 1.2 Updated data bases on forestry researchers/institutions, ongoing/completed research and research training institutions prepared and distributed to institutions and individuals.

For Immediate Objective 2):

- 2.1 Five research networks established in support of priority problems in the Region and results disseminated to users.
- 2.2 Gender issues in development and adoption of forestry technologies identified and appropriate measures proposed to enhance access of technologies to women and other disadvantaged groups.

For Immediate Objective 3):

- 3.1 Research Planning Support:
Research policies, strategies and plans reviewed and revised in 5 countries.
- 3.2 Human Resource Development:
 - (i) 10 Research Directors/managers trained in research management, research planning, prioritisation, and monitoring and evaluation;
 - (ii) 50 middle level and young researchers trained in preparation and appraisal of research projects, research methodology, participatory action research and logical framework analysis; and
 - (iii) 15 young researchers/technicians given on-the-job training through attachment to field research stations/ laboratories to enhance their skills for transfer and adoption of technologies from countries in the Region.
- 3.3. Information technology upgraded in selected institutions.
- 3.4. Five twinning arrangements between institutions established and relevant technologies identified, transferred and adopted in selected countries.

Previous phases

The present project is a follow up of Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA) Phase I and the FORSPA Bridging Phase, which were respectively implemented from November 1991 until December 1994, and from January 1995 until July 1996. Phase I was jointly funded by the Asian Development Bank (RETA 5409) and UNDP, while the major part of the activities during the bridging phase were funded by the Asian Development Bank (RETA 5612) with additional support from AUSAID and ODA for training and information support activities respectively.

Phase I was focussing on enhancing research capability of national researchers in the member countries, mainly by providing funds for research projects on specific topics of regional priority. At the end of Phase I, only three out of the twenty seven approved projects had been finalised and following the recommendations of the mid-term review mission, the ADB and the tripartite (ADB, UNDP and FAO) review mission, an extension of the duration of FORSPA was approved.

During the Bridging phase, the recommendations of the earlier review missions were being followed. The initiated research projects were finalised and more emphasis was put on

project formulation using Modified Logical Framework Analysis and on networking between researchers involved in similar research areas.

The present project is largely based on the findings of the Review Mission for FORSPA Phase I (June 1994), and meetings of the FORSPA Advisory Group.

The project document as approved by FAO and the donor country has been endorsed by the government of 15 member countries. These countries are: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Endorsement by the Governments of Fiji, Malaysia,, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu is still pending.

Project period, budgets, inputs

The project period is 5 years (1 January 1996 – 31 December 2000), with a budget of US\$ 3,221,808, funded by the Netherlands Government. The termination date has since been extended by the donor to 31 December 2001 on a no cost basis. Contributions of recipient governments, donor government and FAO are specified in the project document, which also states the development objective and three immediate objectives, as well as the outputs and activities for the entire project period.

Major activities & outputs to date

The project document and related workplans prepared by FORSPA Staff were discussed and approved by the meetings of the FORSPA Advisory Group in April 1996 in Bangkok, March 1997 in Ho Chi Minh City, June 1998 in Bangkok, March 1999 in Kuala Lumpur, and June 2000 in Beijing. The next meeting of the Advisory Group is planned to be held in May 2001 in Chiang Mai during which the activities will be reviewed as well as plans for further extension of the Project into a Third Phase.

The project's progress has been reported in biannual progress reports, annual reports, various reports and field documents on regional and national activities, as well as Back-To-Office reports from FORSPA staff. A detailed report on the accomplishments of the project since January 1996 will be prepared and will be made available to the Evaluation Mission before the commencement of the evaluation.

Major problems

During the first phase of the project, much of the thrust of the project was on strengthening research through funding small-scale field research projects. During the current phase, there has been a shift in emphasis, focusing on addressing key problems like development of long-term strategic plans and to enhance access to information and to improve skills on research management, research methodologies, etc. Also substantial emphasis is being given to promote collaboration through networking and twinning arrangements. Further priority attention is being given to countries with inadequately developed research systems.

This has taken longer than was envisaged originally. Developing twinning and networking arrangements require considerable attention to the processes involved and the transaction costs in terms of time are substantially higher than anticipated. Developing collaborative research programmes involving a number of countries/institutions/researchers is found to be extremely time consuming.

Further focus on supporting the countries with inadequately developed research systems has posed new problems. The fact that research systems are inadequately developed implies that their needs are very high but absorptive capacities are extremely limited. With the increasing demand for country level technical support, the technical resources capability of the project is over-stretched.

Efforts to develop long term strategies and plans are often not progressing satisfactorily on account of delays at the national level.

Some problems have been encountered with regard to developing APAFRI to become an independent and self-reliant body. A pending Letter of Agreement hampers the issuing of a new LOA that encompasses the support to APAFRI for carrying out some of its core activities and creation of some core services to member research institutions.

The break in continuity of the CTA of the project over the period from November 1999 to June 2000, with a turn over of 3 Senior Programme Advisers, had hampered the smooth execution of the project and slowed down its implementation.

2. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The present phase of FORSPA has been operational since January 1996. During this period, the project has made efforts in different areas, both at the national level in the member countries and at the regional level, to enhance forestry research. After practically five years of operation, and coming almost to the end of the present phase, it is highly recommended and obligatory for an independent evaluation of the Project is undertaken. This would be in order, first to provide an objective assessment of all key aspects of the project, and next to provide new directions for the preparation of a project proposal for a next phase of FORSPA.

As part of the project requirements, there is a mid-term and a terminal review on the project accomplishments and implementation. A mid-term evaluation mission was carried out from 7 June to 4 July 1998. The mid-term evaluation team made the following recommendations:

- The project to be extended in time without increase in budget to the end of 2000;
- Emphasis to be given to the establishment of APAFRI, working in concert with the CIDA TREE LINK Project and that, in particular, support to be given for the development of a decentralised research information service and for a regular major Conference by APAFRI;
- Continuing priority attention to be given to research capacity building, with increased work in South Asia;

- An evaluation mission at the end of 1999/early 2000, to draw conclusions on the potential for APAFRI to become self-sustaining and on the progress with capacity building and on the basis of its assessment make recommendations for further assistance.

The main purpose of the evaluation is to review the progress of the project activities, their relevance to stated objectives, and their effectiveness in responding to crucial needs of the member countries, with emphasis on the recommendations given by the mid-term evaluation mission. Based on project records, recommendations of the Advisory Committee meetings, and the results of personal contacts with the project team, member countries, institutions and other related programmes and projects, the evaluation will provide an independent view on the achievement of the project objective in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

3. SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will be undertaken by an independent evaluation mission, which will review documents, conduct interviews, make observations, discuss with national focal points and other experts and analyse and interpret the outcomes.

A. The mission will assess:

- ◆ The relevance of the project with regards to priorities and needs of member countries;
- ◆ The clarity and realism of the project's Development and Immediate Objectives, including specification of targets and identification of beneficiaries and prospects for sustainability;
- ◆ Quality, clarity and likely efficiency of project design including:
 - Clarity and logical consistency between inputs, activities, outputs and progress towards achievement of objectives (quality, quantity and time frame);
 - Realism and clarity of specification of prior obligations and prerequisites (assumptions and risks); and
 - Cost-effectiveness of the project design;
- ◆ Efficiency, problems and successes of project implementation including: availability of funds as compared with budget for both the donor and national component; the quality and timeliness of input delivery by both FAO and Governments; managerial and work efficiency; implementation difficulties; adequacy of monitoring and reporting; the extent of national support and commitment, and the quality and quantity of administrative and technical support by FAO.
- ◆ Project results including a full and systematic statement of outputs produced to date (quantity and quality) as compared with work plan. The mission will especially review the status and quality of work on:
 - Development of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) as a sustainable mechanism for regional research networking particularly considering its long term prospects and linkages with CIFOR, ICRAF and other organisations like IUFRO;
 - Establishment of topic specific research networks to promote collaborative research;

- The contribution of regional studies to provide an overall direction for development of forestry research in the Region; and
- Research capacity building efforts at the national level and its ability to address the problems in the countries;
- ◆ The involvement of target groups in the process of research priority setting and implementation at the national level;
- ◆ The scope for sustainable application of project generated outputs and the potential effects including those on the target groups;
- ◆ The effectiveness of the project;
- ◆ Any effects, positive or negative, of the project activities that were not foreseen at the project formulation stage;
- ◆ Draw conclusions on the potential of APAFRI to become self-sustaining and on the progress with capacity building and on the basis of its assessment make recommendations for further assistance, as recommended by the mid-term evaluation mission.

Based on the above analysis the mission will draw specific conclusions and make recommendations for a follow up phase of FORSPA. The mission will draw attention to any lessons of general interest.

4. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The four-member mission will comprise three independent experts, one representing the donor country, one representing FAO and one from a FORSPA member country. At least one mission member will have a background in forestry (research) and one mission member will have a wide experience in management of research organisations. Expertise in training and/or human resource development will also be represented in the mission as also experience in project evaluation.

One of the experts will serve as the Team Leader who will have overall responsibility for co-ordinating the mission's activities and for finalising the mission report.

5. TIME TABLE AND ITINERARY OF THE MISSION

The duration of the mission will be 21 days commencing from 27 April 2001. The mission will include visits to forestry research organisations in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The visits to the countries will be divided over the team members, each country to be visited by the whole team or by a two-member team. The mid-term evaluation mission recommended that FORSPA should give more attention to South Asia. Sri Lanka is chosen as a representative of the South Asian countries that received substantial support from FORSPA. A visit to Malaysia will provide an opportunity to meet the officials now managing the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Universiti Putra Malaysia. Besides consultations on APAFRI, the evaluation mission would also discuss the networking and twinning arrangements with FRIM.

An itinerary will be prepared upon clearance of the TOR.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The mission will maintain close liaison with the Representatives of the donor and FAO and the concerned national agencies, as well as with national and international project staff. Although the mission should feel free to discuss with the authorities concerned anything relevant to its assignment, it is not authorised to make any commitments on behalf of the government, the donor, or FAO.

7. REPORTING

The mission is fully responsible for its independent report that may not necessarily reflect the views of the Government, the donor or FAO. The report will be written in conformity with the following headings:

- Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages);
- Project Background and Context;
- Project Relevance and Objectives;
- Project Design;
- Project Implementation and Management;
- Project Activities and Outputs;
- Project Effects, Impact and Sustainability of Results;
- Project Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness;
- Summary of Findings and Conclusions;
- General Lessons; and
- Recommendations.

Annexes: Mission Terms of Reference
Itinerary and Persons Met

The report will be completed in the country and the findings and recommendations fully discussed with all concerned parties and whenever possible consensus arrived at.

The mission will also complete the FAO project evaluation summary sheet.

The mission leader bears responsibility for finalisation of the report, which will be submitted to FAO within two weeks of mission completion. FAO will submit the report to the Government(s) and donor together with its comments.

**Programme and Persons Met
(26 April-17 May 2001)**

26 April (Thus)	Arrival
27 April (Fri)	Briefing Meetings in RAP with: S. Appanah, FORSPA Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Adviser R.B. Singh, ADG RAP
28 April (Sat)	Forenoon: Review of Project Documents and Discussion among Evaluation Team Team A: Evening: Two members, Robert Moore and Gertjan Renes leave for Colombo
29 April (Sun)	Team B: One member (Ram Prasad) accompanied by S. Appanah leave for Kuala Lumpur In evening meeting with Dr. A. Razak, DG FRIM and D. Baskaran, Director Plantation; and had preliminary discussion
30 April (Mon)	Team A in Colombo Meeting with: 1. FAO Rep. in Sri Lanka Mr. H.M. Banderatilleke, Conservator General of Forests Dr. S. Fernando, Chief Research Officer and other staff Team B in Kuala-Lumpur Morning: Visited FRIM and discussion with Dr. A. Razak, D. Baskaran, Alias, Sutherland (Treelink) Meeting with Natural Forest Division officers and its Director Dr. Shamsudin Ibrahim Afternoon:

	<p>Meeting with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Phillips J. Young, UNDP 2. Dr. Sunil Bhargava, UNOPS
01 May (Tue)	Travel to Phnom Penh (entire Mission)
02 May (Wed)	<p>Trip to research areas to visit permanent sample plots (PSP), and proposed demonstration areas and forest nursery in Kampong Thom province, dist. Suntuk (Bacsna nursery) and met with :</p> <p>Mr. Vong Sarun, Director Forest Wildlife Institute</p> <p>Lee Teck Hai (concessionaire camp manager)</p>
03 May (Thu)	<p>Morning:</p> <p>Meeting with:</p> <p>Director, Forest and Wildlife Research Institute</p> <p>Lic Vuthy, Deputy Director</p> <p>Boeny Pha, Royal University Agriculture</p> <p>Afternoon: Travel to Hanoi, Vietnam</p>
04 May (Fri)	<p>Morning:</p> <p>Meeting with the officials of Min. of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Dr. Pham Van March) and other officials</p> <p>Afternoon: Meeting in MARD</p> <p>Mr. Trieu Van Hung (ASPS) (Post Harvest Handling Component)</p> <p>Nguyen Van San, Program Officer Forestry and Bio-diversity in the Royal Netherlands Embassy</p> <p>Ms. F. Guerrieri, FAO Rep. Vietnam and Mr. Pham Gia Truc (Programme Assistant)</p>
05 May (Sat)	<p>Visited Forest Science Institute of Vietnam and had discussion with Dr. Do Dinh Sam (DG) and with Dr. Nguyen Hoang Nghia and 14 other scientists</p>

06 May (Sun)	Travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR
07 May (Mon)	<p>Forenoon: Met with: Mr. Xeme Samountry, General Director, Dept. of Forestry Mr. Carl Guster Moosberg (Lao-Swedish Forestry Project) Mr. D. Brautigam (GTZ Promotion of Forestry Education Project)</p> <p>Afternoon: Met: Scientists of NAFRI (Mr. Vong Khamso, Dr. Bounthong Bouahom, Mahathirath and others.</p> <p>2. Visited Forestry Research Centre and disussed with scientists and staff-Mr. Khamphay Manivong, Mr. Bandith Ramangkoun</p>
08 May (Tue)	<p>Travel to Chiang Mai and attended FORSPA Advisory Group Meting Discuss with representatives of the member countries where mission did not visit Distributed questionnaire</p>
09 May (Wed) (Chiang Mai)	<p>Attended FORSPA Workshop, Advisory Group Meeting Telephone contact between Mr. Renes and Mr. van Ijssel, Forestry and Biodiversity Specialist, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Hanoi</p>
10 May (Thu) (Chiang Mai)	<p>Attended APAFRI Executive Committee. Evaluation Members discuss recommendations.</p>
11 May (Fri)	<p>Evaluation team discussions with SPA in Chiang Mai Travel to Bangkok</p>
12 –13 May (Sat&Sun)	<p>Report writing/discussion with FORSPA- SPA</p>

14 May (Mon)	Report writing continued Meeting with Mr. Beerda, Second Secretary, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Bangkok (Renes)
15 May (Tue)	Report writing continued
16 May (Wed)	Final debriefing meeting/Revision of Report
17 May (Thus)	Finalization of Report/Departure of Members

Implementation of recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation

Recommendation 1. **Focus**

- a. This recommendation has fairly well been fulfilled, with the exception of Bangladesh, which has shown rather limited interest in receiving support from FORSPA.
- b. As for regional focus, the attention is still more aimed at South East Asia than at the two other sub regions. To take human resource development as an example, 63% of the people receiving some form of human resource development came from South East Asia. However, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan and Sri Lanka received also significant support in this field.
- c. Lao PDR has a twinning arrangement with the Chiang Mai University in Thailand, but Nepal and Bhutan have no twinning arrangement, at least not through FORSPA. Contacts between donor assisted projects and the forest research institute in Nepal are rare. Forestry research in Bhutan, not hindered by any history, seems to develop in a relatively modern way. Bhutan is asking for a continued support for the development of its research capacity.
- d. FORSPA has continued to pay attention to twinning arrangements and since the MTE a fourth one has been established. The relatively small resources invested in these arrangements by FORSPA justify the benefits for the weaker partner of the twinning arrangement.

Recommendation 2. **Pace of implementation**

This recommendation has been more than fulfilled. The project has been extended up to December 2001 with no increase in budget. However, even the extension with a year longer than recommended by the MTE, this extensions have not lead to a firm establishment of APAFRI.

Recommendation 3. **APAFRI**

Newsletter has continued to be published (although the last one dates from June 2000) and Conferences have continued to be held, in conjunction with FORSPA meetings.

Recommendation 4. **Website**

Not implemented. APAFRI has a website but it is largely uninformative and the little information relates only to TREELINK activities. The counter indicated only 805 hits from 15 June 2000 – 16 May 2001, indicating that the website is virtually unused.

Recommendation 5. **Development of Research Strategies**

This recommendation has been largely followed, although establishment of inter-sectoral linkages with forestry has in general not been a strong point of the plans.

Recommendation 6. Training

The recommendation concerning use of samples for observation and measurement has been taken up by the project. The workshop in connection with the 2001 FORSPA Advisory Group meeting discussed upwards and downwards communication linkages, although obviously much remains to be done in this area. Application of economic concepts has not been taken up thus far.

Recommendation 7. Strengthening Library and Information Services

No additional follow-up has taken place on this recommendation. It may not have been realistic to expect a professional forester to take over the library in some countries, given the amount of qualified personnel available. FORSPA has continued to provide some subscriptions in selected countries to professional journals and CD ROM.

Recommendation 8. Networking and Twinning Arrangements

Recommendation followed. FORSPA feels that creation of twinning arrangements does not require excessive time, given the potential benefits.

Recommendation 9. Staffing of FORSPA

FAO staff has not been used as suggested by the MTE, although former FAO staff members have served. The present APO does have a background in silviculture, as suggested by the MTE.

Recommendation 10. Strengthening National Research Databases.

As indicated by the MTE, the establishment of these databases goes beyond FORSPA's resources. It is considered by FORSPA as a task of the national research institutes and FORSPA to look for means to establish those databases.

Recommendation 11. Evaluation mission.

This terminal evaluation mission is taking place about 1½ years after the date suggested by the MTE. The reason for this is the extension of the FORSPA project up to the end of 2001. The particular points to be examined, as proposed by the MTE, figure prominently in the terms of reference of the terminal evaluation.

Project Reports and Publications

FORSPA Publications:

1. Development of Forestry Research in Lao PDR, FORSPA Publication No: 17/1997
2. Priorities and institutional arrangements for forestry research in Cambodia, FORSPA Publication No 18/1997.
3. Directory of selected tropical forestry journals and newsletters, 2nd edition, FORSPA Publication No 19/1997 & RAP Publication 1997/17
4. Emerging institutional arrangements for forestry research, FORSPA Publication No 20.
5. Formulation of a forestry research strategy for Sri Lanka: Research priorities, FORSPA Publication No 21/1998.
6. Formulation of strategy for forestry research in Vietnam, FORSPA Publication No. 22/1998
7. Site, technology and productivity of Teak plantations: Conclusions and recommendations, FORSPA Publication No 23/1999 - TEAKNET Publication No. 2.
8. 'Site, Technology and Productivity of Teak Plantations Proceedings of International Seminar' FORSPA Publication No. 24/2000 / TEAKNET Publication No. 3, July 2000
9. FORSPA Brochure, 2001
10. FORSPA Leaflet, 2001
11. 'A Statistical Manual for Forestry Research' FORSPA Publication No. 25/2000

Field Documents:

1. Review of Forestry Research Information System in Lao PDR, Field Document No. 1
2. Review of Forestry Research Information System in Vietnam, Field Document No. 2
3. Review of Forestry Research Information System in Cambodia, Field Document No. 3
4. Review of Forestry Research Information System in Myanmar, Field Document No. 4
5. Forestry research strategy for Vietnam: a preliminary mission report, Field Document No 5.
6. Report on growth and yield studies consultancy in Cambodia, Field Document No. 6
7. Strengthening Research at the Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar, Draft interim report, Field Document No. 8
8. APFReN activities for 1998/1999 and Forest Rehabilitation Demonstration Plot in Lao PDR, Field Document No. 9
9. Consultancy on forestry research planning and strategy formulation in Vietnam, Field Document No 10.
10. Teak improvement and gene conservation in Lao PDR, Field Document No.11
11. Report on the statistical consultancy assignment in Bhutan, Field Document No. 12

12. Report on the consultancy on rehabilitation of logged over natural forests in Lao PDR and Vietnam, Field Document No 13
13. Report on the statistical consultancy assignment in Bhutan (report on the training workshop), Field Document No 14.
14. 'Report on the Statistical Consultancy Assignment in Sri Lanka', Field Document No 15
15. "Impact of Market Changes on Land Use Systems: Response of Communities and Farmers with Regard to Forest and Tree Management, Rapid Rural Appraisal Report on Six villages in Central Hunan Province (PR China)", February 2000, Field Document No 16
16. 'Expert Consultation on the Involvement of Private Sector in Forestry Research, Chinese Academy of Forestry Beijing 7 & 8 June 2000' FORSPA Field Document No. 17, July 2000
17. "'Die-back of Sissoo" Proceedings of International Seminar Kathmandu, Nepal, 25-28 April 2000' FORSPA Field Document No. 18
18. 'Impact of Market Changes on Land-Use Systems: Response of Communities and Farmers with Regards to Forest and Tree Management. A Household Survey in Six Villages in the Hilly Area of Central Hunan Province, PR China.' FORSPA Field Document No. 19.

Papers:

1. Roles of global and regional networks and consortia in strengthening forestry research (C.T.S. Nair and Dennis P. Dykstra) Paper presented at the International Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry, September 1998, Gmunden, Austria
2. Establishing and strengthening networks to promote tropical forestry development in the Asia Pacific. International Conference on Timber Plantation Development, 7 – 9 November 2000, Manila.
3. Forest Genetic Resources in Asia-Pacific Region: International and regional collaboration of key players. RFD-DFC-FORSPA-IPGRI Moving Workshop on "Conservation, Management and Utilization of Forest Genetic Resources," 25 Feb. – 10 March 2001, Thailand.
4. Applicable research results in conserving forest genetic resources. RFD-DFC-FORSPA-IPGRI Moving Workshop on "Conservation, Management and Utilization of Forest Genetic Resources," 25 Feb. – 10 March 2001, Thailand.
5. Species choice and priorities. RFD-DFC-FORSPA-IPGRI Moving Workshop on "Conservation, Management and Utilization of Forest Genetic Resources," 25 Feb. – 10 March 2001, Thailand.

FORSPA Newsletters:

1. INFO-FORSPA, Volume 5.1. January 1998
2. INFO-FORSPA, Volume 5.2. February 1998
3. INFO-FORSPA, Volume 6.1. June 1999
4. INFO-FORSPA, Volume 6.2. January 2000
5. INFO FORSPA, Volume 7, July 2000

Joint reports (Prepared in collaboration with other agencies):

1. Report of the Workshop on organisation of forest research and information services in Lao PDR.

CD-ROM:

1. Database on Ongoing and Completed Forestry Research Projects in Asia and the Pacific