

## **Announcement**

**IUFRO Working Party S2.08.02, *Improvement and Culture of Nitrogen-Fixing Trees*.**

**4<sup>th</sup> International Casuarina Meeting, Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, 22 - 26 March 2010.**

The substantial socio-economic importance of Casuarinas (several members of the family Casuarinaceae) has ensured ongoing global interest in research and development of this group of nitrogen fixing trees. Plantings are invariably associated with agricultural systems and there are about 2 million hectares planted in the tropics and sub-tropics, offering stability to fragile sandy coastal ecosystems and offering services of protection, soil organic matter, poles, fuelwood and commercial wood fibre.

Following earlier successful international meetings in Canberra (1981), Cairo (1990) and Da Nang (1996), IUFRO Working Party S2.08.02, *Improvement and Culture of Nitrogen-Fixing Trees*, is pleased to announce the 4<sup>th</sup> International Casuarina Meeting to be held in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, 22 - 26 March 2010.

The objectives of the meeting are to update and collate current information and advances in the R & D of this interesting group of species, with particular reference to their impact on smallholder livelihoods, reflected in the draft working title for the conference of: *Improving smallholder livelihoods through improved Casuarina productivity*.

Outputs from the meeting will include a written proceedings and a rejuvenation of the small international network which support global R&D into the casuarinas.

The Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF), Chinese Academy of Forestry, has agreed to act as host for the meeting.

Prof Xu Daping, Director of the RITF has been appointed as Chairman of the International Organising Committee and he is being assisted by Dr Zhong Chonglu as Secretary and Mr Khongsak Pinyopusarerk of CSIRO Australia, Dr Antoine Kalinganire of ICRAF (Coordinator, IUFRO Working Party , S2.08.02), Dr Didier Bogusz and Dr Claudine Franche of L'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) of France and Mr Stephen Midgley of Salwood Asia Pacific, Australia.

For further information, please contact:

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