**SESSION PROPOSAL for XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 – Forests and Society towards 2050. Stockholm, Sweden; 23-29 June 2024.**

TITLE: Research advances towards sustainability for the high-value Meliaceae

MODERATOR(S):

TO BE DETERMINED

DESCRIPTION (abstract with session rationale (400 words):

Tropical timber species of the Meliaceae are among the world’s finest woods, are distributed in Asia, Oceania, Africa, and Latin America. The family includes about 53 genera and about 600 known species, including the genera of Swietenia, Cedrela, Toona, Entandrophragma and Khaya. Demand for these species remains high, in spite of decreasing populations for many of the species. Many species (e.g. mahogany, African mahogany, Australian red cedar) are being grown as plantations around the world (e.g. Australia, Malaysia, Brazil). These sources can potentially reduce pressure on natural populations and provide highly desired wood products to society. The sustainable management of high value species of the family Meliaceae faces similar issues in the eastern and western hemispheres. The purpose of this session is to share the latest in research and management towards sustainability for these species, presenting insights from research in various countries. Important topics include conservation of genetic resources, genetic improvement, advances in shootborer control, natural forest management, and development of useful for human health, and improving yields from plantation-grown Meliaceae. Much research is still needed over a wide range of topics.

We hope to broadly communicate advances on these species for improved management and utilization, and to find common research themes among participants to help build possible collaborations. We aim for the last part of the session to be a discussion, with questions from the audience and discussion among the presenters and moderators. If the number of abstracts exceed the expected amount, we can also arrange a poster session to be held with the oral presentations. This theme should be interesting for Congress participants, since demand remains high for Meliaceae wood in global markets.

ORGANIZERS: Name, Organization, email: WHO?

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SUGGESTED TIME SLOT:

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ALIGNMENT WITH CONGRESS THEMES (~100 words): https://iufro2024.com/iufro-world-congress-2024/forests-and-society-towards-2050/iufro-world-congress-2024-themes/

This session aligns well with these themes and subthemes: 2.3 Planted forests for a resourceful forest bioeconomy, 3.1 Harnessing underused forest genetic resources, 3.2 Biodiversity, deforestation, and restoration, **(**PLEASE CHECK FOR OTHERS).

SHORT justification.

TENTATIVE TITLES AND PRESENTERS: (WHO?) for 2 hour session, 15 min talks, including questions and answers.