

Research Note:

**ERDB Research, Development and Extension
Strategies for the Production of High Quality Planting
Materials**

Rafael Cadiz, Marilyn Landicho and Mylene Aparente

*Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, Department of Environment and
Natural Resources, College, Laguna 4031, the Philippines*

ABSTRACT

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is presently conducting research, development and extension strategies for the production of high quality planting materials. The activities include the verification and assessment of existing seed stands and identification of new seed stands, as seed sources of indigenous and exotic species nationwide. Propagation protocols are being developed for some demand-driven indigenous species, and provenance cum progeny trials are being conducted for narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), yemane (*Gmelina arborea*) and molave (*Vitex parviflora*). Extension activities include the establishment of a database of the information gathered by the project, capacity building, and production of brochures, leaflets and videos. It is considered that all possible mechanisms should be employed to transfer the research results effectively.

Keywords: propagation protocols, seed stands, provenance and progeny testing, data base establishment, GIS-based map

RESEARCH RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Forests are renewable resources, essential for the sustenance and welfare of all terrestrial life forms. To meet future needs for wood, the forestry sector must increase production per unit area without destroying the natural resource base. Sustainable forest management is defined in the Helsinki Process as ‘the stewardship and use of forests and forestland in such a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity and regenerative capacity, vitality and the potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems’ (MCPPE 1998).

In the Philippines, there is a need to establish fast-growing and high-yielding plantations to increase production of wood to meet future needs, reduce logging pressure on natural forests, and ensure biodiversity and genetic conservation of