

Observations of Forestry Seedling Production Systems in Thailand and Vietnam

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ABSTRACT

Visits to forestry agencies and seedling nurseries in Thailand and Vietnam revealed an impressive level of progress in regard to both industrial and small-scale forestry. In both countries, reforestation is accorded high priority, the government is a major player in nursery seedling production, and a high level of technology is used in producing seedlings. Universities also play an active role in forestry seedling production. The visit provided valuable lessons for seedling production systems in the Philippines, including information about the roles of government versus private nurseries and about seedling quality and nursery accreditation.

Keywords: Seedling certification, pulp and paper, framework plantings, forest restoration, acacia hybrid

INTRODUCTION

Visits were made to forestry agencies and seedling nurseries in Thailand and Vietnam between 10 February and 2 March 2008. The purpose of the trip was as set out in the ACIAR Philippines Seedling Enhancement Project document (Herbohn 2006), under Objective 1 – ‘*Examine the respective roles and effectiveness of the private and public sector in the tree nursery sector*’, as Task 1b ‘*Undertake a comparative analysis with other SE Asian countries*’.¹ This task is stated in more detail in Section 5.1 – ‘*Research Methodologies and Project Travel*’.

The issues associated with nursery industry organisation and policy environment are not limited to the Philippines, but are common throughout south-east Asia. A comparison of the seedling production policies for smallholder and community plantations in the region is very likely to provide valuable information on how to improve policies in the Philippines, as well as useful guidance to agencies concerned with seedling production in neighbouring countries. Some countries in the region

¹ This project is formally known as Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Philippines Tree Nursery Sector (ASEM/2006/091). Another team examined forestry seedling production systems in Indonesia in December 2007.