

PRODUCTION OF IMPROVED QUALITY REPRODUCTIVE MATERIALS AND THE ROLE OF SEED QUALITY CONTROL IN FORESTRY

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The quality of productivity of established forests is greatly influenced by the quality of reproductive materials used for planting. Hence, production of improved reproductive materials such as seeds, cutting and other plant parts is increasingly challenging in today's productivity-driven forestry programs. As more improved reproductive materials become available for forestry use, the need for assurance on their genetic purity and physiological quality becomes equally important particularly in forest species where it takes many years to mature.

Short term production of quality seeds is achievable by proper selection of seed sources such as geographic and parental sources and the application of appropriate seed technology. To ensure the quality of seed being produced and utilised, certain standards have to be followed. These standards are embodied in a certification scheme and seed testing rules will be discussed in the paper.

This paper presents some approaches and challenges in producing improved quality reproductive materials such as seeds. It also discusses aspects of seed quality control which comprises of seed certification and seed testing in forestry.