

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Forestry research in Malaysia dates back to the beginning of the century and has significantly influenced the development of the forestry sector. Research has resulted in the comprehensive documentation of the tree flora and timbers. Years of monitoring growth and performance of trees in established plots of land have provided the basis for current practices in silviculture. These lend support for the forest management policies in Malaysia and have influenced similar practices implemented in some other tropical countries.

The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia is recognised as the world's premier research institution on tropical forest. The Forest Research Centre in Sabah, the Research Divisions of the Sarawak Forest Department and the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Agriculture, also provide the necessary research inputs on forestry. To support these agencies, the Government has substantially increased their research funding over the past few years.

With sustained yield forestry in mind, research has been focusing on practical and economical, as well as environmentally and ecologically, sound guidelines for the management of the Permanent Forest Estate. This includes developing guidelines for watershed management and the conservation of genetic resources.

Research activities also cover tree plantations, the selection and breeding of superior clones, protection from pests and diseases and the growth performances of various tree species.

Other research areas of importance are mangrove management and coastal erosion, the rehabilitation of idle and degraded lands to increase forest cover for the country, urban forestry, the development of non-forest wood resources from the agriculture sector and the utilisation of non-wood resources from forests to promote multiple use forest management.

