

## Preface

The present Working Report titled “Improvement of Utilization Techniques of Forest Resources to Promote Sustainable Forestry in Thailand” is the collection of fruitful results from the Joint Research Project “Improvement of Utilization Techniques of Forest Resources to Promote Sustainable Forestry” between Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) in 2011 – 2016, the second phase of the joint research since 2006.

Thailand had once suffered from a severe deforestation in the latter 20th Century, consequently declining to an almost halved forest coverage of 26% in 1993 within merely three decades. The Thai Government responded to this serious situation proactively. RFD enacted the Forest Plantation Act in 1992 and launched a project to promote the involvement of local farmers in re/afforestation in 1994. As a result, the forest coverage has been stabilized and the private plantations of valuable indigenous timber-tree species were established by farmers throughout Thailand, including the northeast region.

Under such circumstances, RFD and JIRCAS have implemented collaborative research projects since 2006 to grapple with the suitable methods for on-farm tree plantations. In the first phase in 2006 – 2011, they developed silvicultural techniques to convert the plantations of exotic fast-growing tree species into those of indigenous species as well as an agro-forestry management model with profit prediction. Varied results and outputs were shared with the farmers and the stakeholders through trainings, events and publications, including the previous JIRCAS Working Report No. 74 in 2012.

In the second phase in 2011 – 2016, RFD and JIRCAS were working together on improvement of the forest resource utilization techniques for the local farmers, emphasizing on the development of both user-friendly techniques and ways to promote the market demands for the timbers of the economically high-valued indigenous species, such as teak (*Tectona grandis*), from the plantations established in 1990s and later. This Working Report provides to the readers the research results including silvicultural techniques that can lead to cost reduction and productivity improvement as well as effective evaluation and management methods of the forest resources.

This Working Report is a new milestone of the achievement through the long-lasting collaboration between RFD and JIRCAS. I sincerely hope that the research results presented here would contribute to the farmers and the stakeholders not only in Thailand but also in other countries that are striving for promoting both re/afforestation and local farmers’ livelihood together.

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