

PERMANENT REFERENCE

**A STUDY OF TIMBER WOOD SPECIES
AVAILABILITY IN AMPARA DISTRICT THE CASE
STUDY OF SAMMANTHURAI DIVISIONAL
SECRETARY DIVISION**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PRACTICAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE ADVANCE
COURSE
IN**

CROP SCIENCE

FOR

**THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRILANKA**

2004

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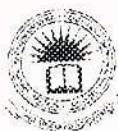
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Abstract

Timber wood is the main source of house construction in Srilanka. Particularly in the rural sector, is the main construction component as well as many industries. The study presented in this report was started in January 2004 and completed in August 2004. The study was conducted in the Sammanthurai Divisional Secretary area of the Ampara district, mainly in the Tamil speaking area. The intensity of the survey was low in the Sinhala areas owing to the prevailing security situation and communication problem in this area.

It represents an open area of 20ha forest (Ampara land use-1981 based on Remote Sensing). The source of timber wood supply or the production system used by the households in the study area consists mainly of forest, home gardens, fences and hedges, household lands located away from home, and non-household lands owned by the state and private individuals. The knowledge of timber wood species among people in the sample was ranked as good and poor.

The structure of the home gardens was found to be related to the economical and cultural background various arrangements of species were seen in the production system.

The note worth yield species include in the study several timber species. *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Berrya cordifolia*, *Pterospermum suberifolium*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Chukrasia velutina*, *Melia dubia* and *Terminalia arjuna*. The study from various sources found that species such as *Diospyros ebinum*, *Schleichera oleosa* were abundantly available in the districts. Now the population of the species has to greatly reduced due to over exploitation. Exotic species especially *Tectonia grandis* is now widely grown in abandoned chena lands and in home gardens. The study identifies 5 timber wood species that are widely used by the house holds the foremost among is found to be *Chloroxylon swietenia*. Considered a superior fuel wood species in the study area. The ecological and soil conditions prevailing in the district is also ideally suited to grow this species.

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