

Tree genetic resources at the Bangladesh Agricultural University Botanic Garden

A.K.M. Golam Sarwar

Laboratory of Plant Systematics, Department of Crop Botany, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh

Corresponding author email: drsarwar@bau.edu.bd

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Trees constitute the primary structural elements of the forest ecosystems that cover around 31% of the planet's land surface and are of vital importance ecologically, culturally and economically. The number of tree species reported from Bangladesh varied from 694 to a total of 1048 tree species (comprising both indigenous and introduced trees) consisting of 432 genera in 99 families. A total of 410 tree species consisting of 66 families are conserved at the Botanic Garden, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAUBG). This is about 40% of the total tree species in Bangladesh. According to IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (Version 3.0) among the conserved tree species in the Botanic Gardens, 190 species are categorized as Not Evaluated (NE), 10 as Data Deficient (DD), 125 as Least Concern (LC), 25 Near Threatened (NT), 59 Threatened and 1 Extinct in the Wild (EW). There is an enormous opportunity for the collection and conservation of tree species at the BAUBG, as out of the national total of 463 threatened and NT species only 84 species are conserved in the Botanic Gardens. Collection of new material could be source materials for both species recovery and habitat restoration programmes.