

## **PLANTATIONS OF INDIGENOUS TREE SPECIES: HAVE THEY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS OVERALL FOREST RECOVERY?**

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The establishment of forest plantations with indigenous has been considered as a reclamation approach towards natural forest recovery. In view of that, many degraded and logged-over forest areas have been replanted with fast growing indigenous tree species. The question is that have they really contributed towards the overall forest recovery, at least in terms of species composition, species dominant, canopy layers and height? This paper will elaborate primarily on the results obtained from three replanting projects, namely, the UPM-JISE project (in Bintulu, Sarawak), the UPM-Forestry Department project (in Pasoh, Negeri Sembilan), and the Forestry Department-JICA project (in Chikus, Perak). In addition, the paper will also cross-refer to several other replanting projects, which have reported previously, along with the 'bench-mark' data from the natural forest. The UPM-Forestry Department project in Pasoh, Negeri Sembilan, for example, has been planted with only ten species (comprising mainly fast growing species), whereas the Bintulu project has been replanted with 126 species, ranging from slow-to-fast growers. In term of the height recovery of the species, *Shorea leprosula*, one the fastest growing species from the Bintulu project attained an average height of 18 m after 15 years of planting (MAI of 1.2m). The same species planted in Pasoh recorded a lower Height MAI of 0.84m. Based on the current height growth of *S. leprosula*, the species in Bintulu is expected to achieve average height recovery of 45m in 37.5 years, which is faster than the natural recovery rate of logged-over forest (40 to 50 years). Details on species and stand recovery will be included in the paper.

No extended abstract received yet