

Designing training opportunities for plantation managers: The TALENT Programme.

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Abstract.

The TALENT program (TrAining on LandscapE maNagementT) aims to raise awareness among the managers (present and future) of large tree crop plantations. The main objective of the partnership is to develop specific training activities contributing to the dissemination of best agro-environmental practices. To achieve this aim, the project targets four countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand), and four major commodities (oil palm, rubber, timber and pulp). A group of six partner universities was selected, with the common aim of addressing four different audiences (Masters Students, managers from large plantations, managers of smallholder cooperatives and bank executives).

The TALENT Programme will install a network of decision-makers able to understand and apply the key principles of sustainability, supported by their experience in the field. TALENT will also develop specific training activities for the banking sector, in order to link the current challenges in plantation agriculture to the financing of sustainable plantations, thus stimulating their development.

In addition to renovating the existing Masters or UG programs, the TALENT initiative also organizes various types of thematic regional seminars and thematic visits to sites of interest, thus directly reaching production operators (companies or cooperatives), financial actors (banks, credit organizations) and academic partners (academics, researchers, extension staff).

In addition to face-to-face teaching activities, the e-TALENT subproject provides online resources to all learners interested in the sustainability of plantations in South-East Asia.

Keywords: Education, Perennial crops, Plantation agriculture, Sustainable development, Training.