

Insurance for Casuarina Plantations – An Innovative Intervention in Industrial Agroforestry

K.T. Parthiban*, S. Umesh Kanna, S. Vennila, P. Kumar, V. Saravanan
V. Subbulakshmi and P. Durairasu

*Forest College and Research Institute
Mettupalayam 641 301, Tamil Nadu, India*

**Email : ktparthi2001@gmail.com*

Abstract

The state of Tamil Nadu is known for its long coastal zone wherein the three districts viz., Cuddalore, Chennai and Villupuram located along the coastal zone are of potential significance for development of Casuarina based pulpwood plantations. These three districts alone contribute over 60% of pulpwood supply in Tamil Nadu also supplied to pulpwood industries southern states. These districts are frequently hit by natural calamities including heavy wind, Cyclone, Hurricane, Tsumani etc., which resulted in large scale uprooting of many tree species causing huge economic loss to the farmers besides creating uncertainty in Casuarina based pulpwood supply chain. This besides, occurrence of pest and diseases, fire etc also cause serious damage to Casuarina plantations. All these biotic and abiotic damages cause huge economic loss to the growers.

To protect the Casuarina plantation against natural calamities, Forest College has roped in United India Insurance, Chennai and developed a comprehensive "Tree Insurance Scheme" for Casuarina plantations. The premium rate for basic plan has been fixed at 1.25% of the input cost. The premium to be paid for one acre plantation would be ranged between Rs. 337 (first year) and Rs. 758 (third year) depending on the input cost of the plantations. This insurance protection would cover the perils like forest or bush fire, lightening, riot and strike, storm and cyclone, flood and inundation and also the damages due to wild animal attack. In the event of damage due to any of the above mentioned perils, the farmer would be settled with the input cost of respective trees.

This comprehensive insurance plan for tree crops is a pioneering and timely intervention which will help to expand the Casuarina industrial wood plantations and will create self reliance in raw material security besides protecting the farmers interest.