

Positive Trends of *Casuarina junghuhniana* Miq. introduction Trials in Balasore District, Odisha, India

Vinod Kumar,* Kedar Kumar Swain and Gopal Chandra Mohapatra

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

SFTRI Campus, P.O, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar 751 003, Odisha, India

*Email : pd_vk@ofsdp.org

Abstract

Casuarina is the most preferred tree for establishing shelterbelts along the 480 kilometer long stretch in Odisha State which is located on the eastern coast of the Indian peninsula. So far only *C. equisetifolia* has been planted extensively. Recent reports from adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu showed that *C. junghuhniana* growing faster than *C. equisetifolia* as a short rotation crop in farm lands. Since the earlier introduction of this species in Puri, Odisha was damaged by cyclone a fresh effort was made to systematically introduce the species in the State. Accordingly an introduction trial was established at Arabandha in Nilgiri forest range of Balasore District in 2012 in collaboration with the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. There were 23 accessions of *C. junghuhniana* and its hybrids namely CHK -9, CJ-16, CHK-6, CJ -20, CHK -11, CJ 23, CHV-8, CHK-7, CJ-1, CJ-10, CHV-19, CHV-4, CHK-8, CJ-18, CJ-30, CJ-19, CH-2, CJ-15 and CH-3 planted in the trial with the local *C. equisetifolia* as control. Early growth performance at one year age showed that many introduced accessions of *C. junghuhniana* hybrids better than *C. equisetifolia*. Short listed accessions will be adopted for agro forestry and extension programmes.