

## **Silviculture and Agro Forestry of Casuarina in Tamil Nadu, India**

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### **Abstract**

*Casuarinaceae* includes eighty species of trees and shrubs, distributed in Australia and Asia. *Casuarina* trees have the potential to assist the alternative of the fuel and wood crusts. They are adaptable to various environment conditions. In India it was introduced during nineteenth century to meet the requirements of rural people for fuel, fodder, poles, and shelter belts. Various research trials for standardization of cost of production, watering regime, yield per acre, nursery technology, silviculture operation like espacement, thinning, rotation, growth rate, were conducted under different programmes. Some important studies are comparison of growth between *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Casuarina junghuhniana*, effect of single and double sprigs planted in a pit, introduction trials, espacement trials, best season for planting, studies on agroforestry models, on-farm trials, suitability of *Casuarina* for water logged areas and shelterbelt models. Seeds were collected from genetically superior trees and distributed to the farmers and the forest department. Based on the experience gained from the previous studies, the focus is on shortening of rotation, reduced cost of production identifying the genetically superior trees, multiplication of clones and studies on post-harvest technology.