



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,  
Assistant Public Relations Officer  
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto:pro@tnau.ac.in)

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To  
The Editor,

Date: 21-9-2016

Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

### **TNAU Inks with Century Plyboards**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Century Plyboards, Chennai commonly pronounced as Sharon ply a leading plywood manufacturer in the country. Wood and wood based products are important part of our life. The requirement of wood and wood products is bound to witness an unprecedented trend due to various economic and policy initiatives taken in India.

The logging operations in natural forest has been minimized and the resulting wood scarcity has provided an impetus for the development of agro and farm forestry. It has been estimated that India needs nearly 150 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood after 2020 onwards. This will create a huge gap between demand and supply. India's forest is almost legally closed and there is no scope of getting raw materials from these natural forests. The GOI as early in 1980 promoted a National Forest Policy which directed the wood based industries in the country to derive raw materials of their own without depending on forest department supply.

However the wood based industries barring few exceptions have not taken the policy directions seriously which resulted in massive import of logs and uncertainty in supply chain process. To resolve these issues, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has conceived a comprehensive Consortium of Industrial Agroforestry which incorporated all stakeholders viz., wood based industries, agroforestry producers, value addition industries, research institutes and financial institutions. As a part of consortium project

development, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Century Plyboards (I) Limited alias Sharon Ply to strengthen agroforestry research and to promote plywood based industrial agroforestry plantations in order to create self reliance in raw material security besides augmenting the green cover of the state.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Dr. C.R. Ananda Kumar, Registrar, TNAU and Shri. Vishnu Khemani, Managing Director, Century Plyboards (I) Limited in the presence of Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Dr. H. Philip, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Dr.K.K. Suresh, Dean (Forestry) in the First Annual Workshop of Consortium of Industrial Agroforestry held on 20-9-2016 at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. The Vice Chancellor indicated that this Memorandum of Agreement will create excellent platform for tree growing farmers towards technological support coupled with organized and assured buyback arrangements. He also indicated that the agroforestry promotion in the state will be intensified which may lead to increased productivity and profitability.

The Vice Chancellor stressed the farmers to go for bund planting of the tree seedlings particularly the small farmers and to integrate generation of wood and food in the same field. This programme was attended by over 200 members representing wood based industries, line department officials, financial institutes, felling group, marketing group and supply chain officers from across the country.

Asst. Public Relations Officer