

Promoting Raw Material Upgradation Techniques-APPM Experience

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ABSTRACT

Technological advancements are the need of the hour in Indian Pulp and Paper Industry. Modernization and up-gradation activities in process areas are doing away with obsolete technologies. The prelude for this is demand for high quality cellulosic raw material for meeting end uses. Availability of adequate raw material in order to meet increased production capacities is a major challenge for the industrial segment. On the other hand, quality raw material is a pre-requisite for higher-grade pulp and finished product. For wood based industries, industrial plantations are the only answer to overcome constraints.

In order to address these needs APPM has adopted Farm Forestry activities since 1989. The scheme ensures development and distribution of quality seedlings to farmers thereby increasing raw material availability and sustained supply of fibrous raw material to mills. In tune with the ongoing APPM Mill Development Plan and in order to meet the projected demand of hardwoods, structured Farm Forestry activities have been put into practice. A step ahead the mill has introduced techniques for raw material up-gradation by introducing high yielding, genetically superior site specific clones with short rotation cycle.

Clonal field trials with species of Casuarina hybrid showed uniform growth, higher yield per unit area and the pulpwood was found to be better during pulping trials.