

TREE IMPROVEMENT COURSE FOR MANAGERS

The 3-day course is specifically designed for managers with an interest in tree improvement programmes. The course enables managers to constructively engage in strategic discussions relating to the opportunities and risks which tree improvement presents for forestry companies.

COURSE CONTENT

- World trends in forestry – major changes, opportunities and challenges that impact our tree breeding strategies.
- Tree improvement and the effect on the environment – dangers of gene pollution, impact on biodiversity, controlling alien invasives, how certification requirements impact breeding objectives.
- Defining key elements of a tree improvement programme
 - Understanding basic genetic concepts such as heritabilities, genetic correlations, genotype-by-environment interaction and how they impact genetic improvement and plantation or mill performance.
 - The advantages and disadvantages of different breeding strategies and how to ensure sustainable improvement.
 - Linking a breeding strategy with production and research strategies.
 - How to conserve cost-effectively.
 - Risk management.
- Comparison of deployment options – the cost, the advantages and disadvantages of clones, hybrids and seedlings, open-pollinated versus control pollinated seed.
- How to quantify and display the benefits of tree breeding.
- Designing research plans and modelling the outcomes.
- Statistics – understanding what to and what not to believe. The requirements for reliable results.
- Biotechnology as tool for tree improvement. Opportunities and constraints.

- The management of Intellectual property (IP). Identifying strategic IP, the value of IP and protecting IP.
- The economics of tree improvement
 - Case study.
 - Realised gains – what can be expected.
- Some concepts of performance management in tree improvement.

ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact the course coordinator between 08h00 and 16h00 (Central African time).

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