

1st Announcement



VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP

Management of Plant Diseases in Sustaining Forest Health

26 February 2025 | Live in Zoom | 1400-1600 (GMT+8) Kuala Lumpur

Time (GMT +8)	Activity
1400-1410	Brief Opening Remark by APAFRI representative
1410-1440	Management of Gall Rust Disease Caused by <i>Uromycladium falcatarium</i> on <i>Falcataria moluccana</i> in The Southeast Asia Prof. Dr. Sri Rahayu , Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), INDONESIA
1440-1510	Rising Threat of Fungal Diseases and Their Impact on Forest Health in Peninsular Malaysia Dr. Mohd Farid Ahmad , Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia
1510-1600	Q&A - Open Discussion

Submit your registration by **21 February 2025**:

<https://forms.gle/tuHUpCTujvG6weTJ7>

OUR SPEAKERS



PROF. DR SRI RAHAYU
Universitas Gadjah Mada
(UGM)
INDONESIA



DR. MOHD FARID AHMAD
Forest Research Institute
Malaysia (FRIM)
MALAYSIA

Synopsis of Presentations

Management of Gall Rust Disease Caused by *Uromycladium falcatarium* on *Falcataria moluccana* in The Southeast Asia

Prof. Dr. Sri Rahayu

Uromycladium falcatarium is a rust fungus causing extremely damaging disease on *Falcataria moluccana* commercial plantations in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The outbreak of this disease can kill *F. moluccana* from seedlings to tree stages. Since the diseases were mainly spread by the wind, awareness among neighboring countries especially in South East Asia, which have almost the same climate and environmental conditions, must be developed. The outbreak of diseases in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia has been recorded from 1997 to 2013. Some success stories in management options have been developed in Indonesia. Climate change with the La Nina phenomenon is currently happening. Based on the reports from many gall rust scientists. It indicates that the gall rust disease incidence is increasing again everywhere. Thus, it is necessary to discuss, communicate, and share knowledge and experience on how to manage gall rust among countries, particularly in Southeast Asia.

Rising Threat of Fungal Diseases and Their Impact on Forest Health in Peninsular Malaysia

Dr. Mohd Farid Ahmad

Forest plantations in Malaysia cover approximately 996,800 hectares, with the majority located in East Malaysia. However, only 126,475.99 hectares of land in Peninsular Malaysia are dedicated to these plantations. The main species planted include *Acacia mangium*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Falcataria moluccana*, *Neolamarckia cadamba*, and *Hevea brasiliensis*. Unfortunately, diseases have emerged as a significant threat to these plantations, causing considerable damage. Among the diseases that have attracted global attention from planters, scientists, and policy-makers are heart rot, root rot, and *Ceratocystis* wilt and canker in *Acacia mangium*. These diseases have led to severe damage, prompting the implementation of various management strategies, such as improving silvicultural practices, introducing resistant varieties, and converting lands to other species to reduce disease incidence.

This presentation discusses the major forest plantation diseases in Malaysia, from the early days of the forest plantation program to the present. It focuses on key diseases such as heart rot, root rot, *Ceratocystis* wilt, *Chrysosporthe* stem canker, and *Calonectria* leaf disease. Additionally, the presentation reveals the potential factors contributing to the introduction of alien fungal pathogens into the country and possible threats to forestry and agriculture sectors.

Speaker's Brief Introduction

Prof. Dr Sri Rahayu is the Head Laboratory of Health and Protection, Faculty of Forestry Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Yogyakarta, Indonesia has been as Lecturer on Forest Pathology, Forest Health and Forest Protection since 1993 up to Now (2025), Coordinator of IUFRO WP 7.02.07 Diseases and Insects of Tropical Forest Trees since 2010 up to Now (2025). Most publication and research experiences on Rust diseases, particularly of the rust fungus *Uromycladium falcatarium* on *Falcataria moluccana* in the Tropics.

Dr. Mohd Farid Ahmad is a Senior Researcher at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), where he has been employed since 1998. He earned his PhD in Forest Pathology from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in 2010. Throughout his career at FRIM, he has led, co- led, or contributed to over 30 research projects. His expertise spans areas such as forest health surveys and evaluations, fungal biology, biological control, and pest and disease management. Currently, Dr. Farid serves as the Head of the Forest Health and Conservation Programme within the Forest Biodiversity Division. In addition to his research role, he is a certified arborist (MY-0360A) through the International Society of Arboriculture and serves as a member of the technical panel on Plant Invasive Alien Species (IAS) for the National Committee on IAS.

For more information, please email to:

Ms. Syuqiyah (secretariat.of.apafri@gmail.com) or Dr. Pin Kar Yong (pin@frim.gov.my)

