

Estimating the economic value of natural bamboo stands : a case study in Pahang, Malaysia.

ABSTRACT

This paper presents results of a study on appraising the economic value of natural bamboo stands in Pahang, Malaysia. Data were gathered by interviewing active and registered bamboo collectors and manufacturers of bamboo products in the state, as well as some secondary information from the Fourth National Forestry Inventory. A rapid field inventory was also conducted to estimate the number of culms and potentially harvestable culms in a clump of bamboo. The economic value of the natural bamboo stands is estimated using the residual value approach. *Gigantochloa scortechinii* was harvested in Raub for making joss/incense sticks, while *Dendrocalamus pendulus* and *Schizostachyum zollingeri* were harvested in Rompin for the production of vegetable/fruit baskets. It is estimated that about 6.47 million harvestable culms of *G. scortechinii* would be available in the forests of Pahang with an economic value of about RM1.747 million. As for *S. zollingeri* (and others), the potentially harvestable culms amounted to about 3.84 million culms with an economic value of RM882,329 (end product is vegetable/fruit basket) or RM1.611 million (end product is bamboo sticks). Assuming only these three species are harvested and used, there would be at least RM2.629 million worth of bamboo resource in the natural forests in Pahang.

Keyword: Bamboo; Natural stands; Economic valuation.