



An Australian Government Initiative



**For Immediate Release
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Brisbane, Queensland. Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator Ian Macdonald today officially launched a new peer-reviewed hardcover publication on the lessons learned from reforestation in Australia's tropical and subtropical regions over the past ten years.

Jointly sponsored by the Joint Venture Agroforestry Program and Cairns' Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre (Rainforest CRC), the book entitled *Reforestation in the Tropics and Subtropics of Australia Using Rainforest Tree Species* is the proceedings of a June 2003 workshop held at The University of Queensland, Brisbane.

"This is a landmark publication for the farm forestry industry of Australia", says Rainforest CRC Chief Executive Officer Professor Nigel Stork. "As the available area for native forest timber extraction decreases, this book will become increasingly valuable for those interested and involved in farm forestry. The book looks at the ecological consequences of tree plantings and in particular the issues facing forest growers who are looking for both production and biodiversity outcomes."

The book demonstrates how successful small-scale farm forestry can be for growers of far north and southeast Queensland and northern New South Wales. It presents information on reforestation methodologies, growth rates and knowledge about pests and diseases affecting tropical trees. It also discusses the management challenges of mixed-species plantations. Though based largely on work undertaken by members of the Rainforest CRC and its partners, the book includes contributions from a variety of other researchers and managers. As such it represents a summary of what we now know about reforestation with rainforest tree species.

Up until the World Heritage listing in the 1980s of nearly all state-controlled subtropical and tropical rainforests in New South Wales and Queensland, only minimal information was available on the potential success of growing rainforest trees. The new book documents the lessons learned by workshop participants, many of whom were involved in the reforestation effort in both Queensland and northern New South Wales during the past fourteen years.

University of Queensland researcher and co-editor of the book, Dr Peter Erskine says "The 2003 workshop was an opportunity for researchers and managers to carefully plan how to summarise the knowledge now available, and how to present it in a carefully structured fashion. As a consequence, many chapters represent our most up to date syntheses of what is known by researchers and field managers."

The Joint Venture Agroforestry Program (JVAP), who sponsored the final workshop, is a partnership between Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Land and Water Australia, and Wood Products R & D Corporation. RIRDC is the managing agent. The JVAP aims to provide the knowledge to help landholders integrate sustainable and productive agroforestry within Australian farming systems.

The publication may be purchased online at www.rirdc.gov.au/eshop

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