

XV. THE PROSEA PROJECT (PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA)

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Since the previous Flora Malesiana Bulletin, most activities of the PROSEA Project were focused on the First International PROSEA Symposium, its organization, and the preparation of the publications to be presented at the Symposium.

This account gives a short summary of the Symposium. A full report with all papers and discussions will appear in the Proceedings, expected to be published in October–November 1989.

The Symposium was held in Jakarta from 22–25 May 1989 and more than 150 participants were registered.

His Excellency, the Indonesian Forestry Minister H. Harahap, opened the Symposium. In his keynote address he said that Indonesia has taken measures to conserve its forests, such as applying a selective cutting system, reforestation, and critical land programs. 'But in the vast jungle tracks of the sprawling island chain, it is hard to keep track of who is breaking the rules. Assist us by training us how to manage our large forested areas properly in order to solve environmental problems.'

Dr. E. Westphal (PROSEA, WAG) presented a paper on 'PROSEA State of the art'.

Prof. Dr. C. Kalkman (L) presented 'Economic botany in S.E. Asia', highlighting the necessity of taxonomical research as a basis for economic botany but also pleading high priority for taxonomical work on families with useful species.

Dr. S.M. Nor (FRIM, KEP) presented 'PROSEA's scientific merits and limitations'. He stressed the absolute necessity of a maximum input from S.E. Asian scientists and institutes, and the moral obligation of PROSEA and its donors to guarantee that any economic benefit resulting from PROSEA should benefit the owners of the resources first.

Mr. J.M. Schippers (PUDOC, WAG) presented 'PROSEA and new trends in information technology'. E.g. CD-ROM (Compact Disk - Read Only Memory) and WORM (Write Once Read Many times) were discussed.

Mr. R.H.M.J. Lemmens (PROSEA, WAG) presented a paper on the PROSEA publication: 'Basic List of species and commodity grouping. Version 1'. R.H.M.J. Lemmens et al. (eds.), PROSEA Project, 1989, Wageningen, xvii + 148 pp (alphabetical list) + 179 pp. (species listed by commodity group). Not for sale. This book lists about 6,200 records, based on the old handbooks on useful plants of S.E. Asia of Heyne, Burkill, Brown, and Reyes. It is intended as a working document for editors and authors of PROSEA, to check the correct scientific names, to decide which species should be considered for inclusion in the Handbook and which commodity group each species can be assigned to. About 67% of the names are updated (21% by using the published names in Flora Malesiana, 46% by 30 specialist taxonomists). A completely updated version will be published in 1990.

Prof. Dr. L.J.G. van der Maesen (WAG) presented a paper on the first volume of the PROSEA handbook: 'Pulses'. 'Plant Resources of South-East Asia No 1. Pulses' by L.J.G. van der Maesen & S. Somaatmadja (eds.), Pudoc, Wageningen, 1989, 105 pp.,

hard cover, Dfl. 100.00. 22 pulses are treated textually by 20 authors, 3 pulses are treated in tabular form and 69 legumes, only occasionally used as a pulse, are referred to other commodity groups. All species are illustrated.

Dr. P. C. M. Jansen (PROSEA, WAG) presented a paper on the PROSEA publication: 'Plant Resources of South-East Asia. A Selection' by E. Westphal & P. C. M. Jansen (eds.), Pudoc, Wageningen, 1989, 322 pp., hard cover, Dfl. 150.00. 75 species and 11 genera are treated by 101 authors, all taxa are illustrated. This publication was intended to try out if the framework of the treatments was applicable for species of all commodity groups. As many economic important species are included it might as well be a valuable textbook for educational purposes. Included are, for instance, rice, maize, sweet potato, cassava, sago palm, sugar cane, groundnut, soya, coconut palm, oil palm, mangosteen, rambutan, okra, black pepper, nutmeg, clove, tea, coffee, cacao, kinine, 11 timber trees, kapok, cotton, abaca, elephant grass, 1 rattan, 1 bamboo, rubber, *Leucaena*, 3 ornamentals, 4 lower plants.

From the PROSEA handbook volumes in preparation, papers on the planning or the progress were presented by: Dr. E. W. M. Verheij (PROSEA, WAG) on 'Edible fruits and nuts'; Dr. E. A. Widjaja (BO) on 'Bamboos'; Dr. N. R. de Graaf (PROSEA, WAG) on 'Dye and tannin-producing plants'; Dr. J. Dransfield (K) on 'Rattans'; Dr. J. S. Siemonsma (PROSEA, BO) on 'Vegetables'; Ms. Rugayah (BO) on 'Spices'; and Prof. Dr. L. 't Mannetje (WAG) on 'Forages'.

From the PROSEA Country Offices, papers on the progress were presented by: Dr. S. Kadarsan (CRDB, BO) for Indonesia; L. Tipot (FRIM, KEP), for Malaysia; Prof. Dr. R. J. Johns (UNITECH, Lae) for Papua New Guinea; N. Altoveros (PCARRD, Los Baños) for the Philippines; and S. Duriyaprapan (TISTR, Bangkok) for Thailand.

All country offices started collecting literature references and data on expertise on useful plants in their respective countries.

Mr. L. P. A. Oyen (PROSEA, WAG) presented a paper on SAPRIS, the PROSEA documentation and information system.

After the paper 'Proposals for Project Execution 1991-1995', presented by Prof. Dr. H. C. van der Plas (WAG) the proposals were discussed in 4 working groups: a) scientific content and quality; b) organization and finances; c) information and documentation system; d) publication policy.

The following schedule of publications was proposed for the period (1989-)1991-1995:

- 1989: – Basic List of species and commodity grouping, Version 1.
 - A selection.
 - PROSEA 1 – Pulses.
 - Proceedings PROSEA First International Symposium.
- 1990: – Basic List of species and commodity grouping, Version 2.
 - PROSEA 2 – Edible fruits and nuts.
 - PROSEA 3 – Dye and tannin-producing plants.
- 1991: – PROSEA 4 – Bamboos.
 - PROSEA 5 – Rattans.
 - PROSEA 6 – Forages.
 - PROSEA 7 – Cereals.

- 1992: – PROSEA 8 – Vegetables.
– PROSEA 9 – Plants mainly producing carbohydrates.
– PROSEA 10 – Auxiliary plants in agriculture and forestry.
- 1993: – PROSEA 11 – Lower plants.
– PROSEA 12 – Essential-oil plants.
– PROSEA 13 – Plants producing exudates.
- 1994: – PROSEA 14 – Vegetable oils and fats.
– PROSEA 15 – Fibre plants.
– PROSEA 16 – Stimulant plants.
- 1995: – PROSEA 17 – Spices.
– PROSEA 18 – Ornamental plants (Part 1).

Preparatory work on 'Ornamental plants' Part 2, 'Timber trees' Part 1 & 2, 'Medicinal plants' Part 1 & 2, and 'Miscellaneous plants' may start already in 1993/1994, leading to publication in the period 1996–2000.

At this moment 11 commodity groups are in preparation (Editors and authors are being identified).

In the evening of the first day, an exhibition on botanical illustrations could be visited at the Erasmus House of the Dutch Embassy at Jakarta. Many historical botanical books with coloured illustrations and many original coloured illustrations, most from the Herbarium Bogoriense, could be admired.

The third day of the Symposium was an excursion day. In the morning the beautiful Cibodas mountain garden was visited; lunch was offered at the Bogor Botanical Garden; after lunch the Ethnobotanical Museum of Herbarium Bogoriense was visited and finally some timber plots at Darmaga of the Forest Research and Development Centre were visited.

On the last day brief summaries of the discussions in the 4 working groups were presented by the chairmen of the groups and discussed.

While most of the participants made a visit to the Forestry Museum in Jakarta, the drafting committee formulated the recommendations of the working groups and the plenary discussion. In the afternoon of the last day the recommendations were presented and commented.

Some of the recommendations of the Symposium were:

- a) In the identifications and appointments of (co-)editors and (co-)authors priority should be given to competent S.E. Asian scientists.
- b) Priority should be given in the publication schedule to timber trees and medicinal plants.
- c) Translations of PROSEA publications into national languages of the participating countries belong to the responsibility of the respective countries.
- d) Appropriate action should be taken to publish the handbook also in low-cost English versions for S.E. Asia.
- e) A call is made to other organizations like IBPGR to use PROSEA and its publications as an agent for plant conservation activities in S.E. Asia, giving priority to endangered plant species.
- f) Every effort should be made that a high scientific quality of the publications will be maintained.
- g) It is emphasized that herbarium documentation is essential for lesser known species.

- h) A Task Force should be nominated by the Multilateral Steering Committee to make proposals within 6 months, on the legal framework of PROSEA International, the organizational structure, the manpower requirement, and the total funding requirement.

The vice-chairman of LIPI, Prof. Dr. S. Sastrapradja, closed the Symposium.

During the Symposium about 60 posters were presented, all related to economic botany in S.E. Asia.

The day after the Symposium the Multilateral Steering Committee of PROSEA (with 2 representatives each of the coordinating institutes LIPI, FRIM, UNITECH, PCARRD, TISTR, and WAG) came together. Dr. A. Soegiarto (LIPI) was elected as chairman, Dr. R. V. Valmayor (PCARRD) and Prof. Dr. H.C.D. van der Plas (WAG) as vice-chairmen, and Dr. E. Westphal (PROSEA, WAG) as secretary.

The Multilateral Steering Committee nominated the Task Force as follows: Dr S.M. Nor (FRIM, KEP) chairman, Dr. S. Kadarsan (CRDB, BO) vice-chairman, Prof. Dr. C.C. Oosterlee (WAG) member, and Dr. J.S. Siemonsma (PROSEA, BO) secretary.

Call for cooperation

For Version 2 of the 'Basic List', PROSEA is still looking for specialist taxonomists who are willing to update scientific names of the following families (number of species in brackets):

Acanthaceae (79), Amaryllidaceae (39), Asclepiadaceae (48), Bombacaceae (24), Boraginaceae (24), Cruciferae (21), Guttiferae (86), Lecythidaceae (22), Liliaceae (44), Lythraceae (17), Meliaceae (111), Moraceae (130), Musaceae (22), Myrsinaceae (39), Myrtaceae (115), Oleaceae (18), Orchidaceae (120), Pandanaceae (39), Piperaceae (33), Polygonaceae (28), Rhamnaceae (23), Rutaceae (84), Scrophulariaceae (30), Sterculiaceae (65), Theaceae (31), Urticaceae (44), Vitaceae (47).

If you are willing to contribute (only genera also welcome), please contact PROSEA at the above address.