



Processing and Marketing of Teak Wood Products of Planted Forests

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Hybcheck- the biopesticide for managing teak defoliator (*Hyblaea puera* Cramer): An announcement

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The teak defoliator (*Hyblaea puera* Cramer) is the most serious pest of the teak tree diminishing both the quantity and quality of timber. Outbreaks of the insect occur many times an year in teak plantations of all age classes. Managing the pest using chemical pesticides is hazardous to the forest ecosystem and the biodiversity it holds. This paper announces the arrival of Hybcheck- a Baculovirus based microbial pesticide for managing teak defoliator populations. Hybcheck is a freeze dried powder formulation containing virulent polyhedra of the Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus which is highly specific to the teak defoliator. The NPV is a double stranded DNA virus with molecular weight ranging from 79.37-112.14 kbp. Field trials during outbreaks showed that the product was able to provide 70 per cent foliage protection. The product has sufficient shelf life and is able to kill the pest insect within 48 hours of application. Being a naturally occurring pathogen, application of Hybcheck helps to amplify the natural inoculum load in the ecosystem. When fed at a sublethal dose, Hybcheck will get transmitted from one generation to the next in a process called as vertical transmission which would trigger epizootics of NPV in the outbreak populations of the insect. Towards green certified timber products from teak plantations, Hybcheck is the first contribution for ecofriendly pest management.

Keywords: Biopesticide; Hybcheck; *Hyblaea puera*; Teak defoliator