

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCIALISATION OF TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

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Abstract

Evolution of Malaysia's R&D in tropical forestry began in 1920s and carried out by the Forest Research Institute. Started with fundamental research towards understanding the basic timber properties, the R&D gradually shifted towards specific uses and industrial applications. This trend continued until the formation of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in 1985. Among the important milestones are establishment of laboratories and referral centres resulted from successful R&D programmes. After 37 years, FRIM today emerged as the Malaysian research institution providing a full-fledged function and roles in research, development, commercialisation and application (R,D,C&A) pertinent to forestry, encompassing upstream and downstream activities. To date, 31 FRIM laboratories have become service providers of 206 certified and/or accredited tests. FRIM experts also provide consultancy services of 35 different fields, to industries. Of Intellectual Properties (IP), Innovation and Commercialisation Division is managing systematically the institute's IP portfolios via a strategic technology route. The roadmap looks into IP registration and protection at MyIPO, followed by technology incubation and advancement towards a complete technology package for commercialisation purpose. Governed by FRIM Act 782, FRIM Incorporated Sdn Bhd was established in 2017. The company enjoys the first right of refusal status and becomes the institute's collaborator in spearheading the transfer of technology to industries.

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