

# Indian Wood & Allied Panels

Volume 16 • Issue 3

A Quarterly Publication on Plywood / Wood & Bamboo Based Panel Products

July - September 2022



## The green future of tropical timber

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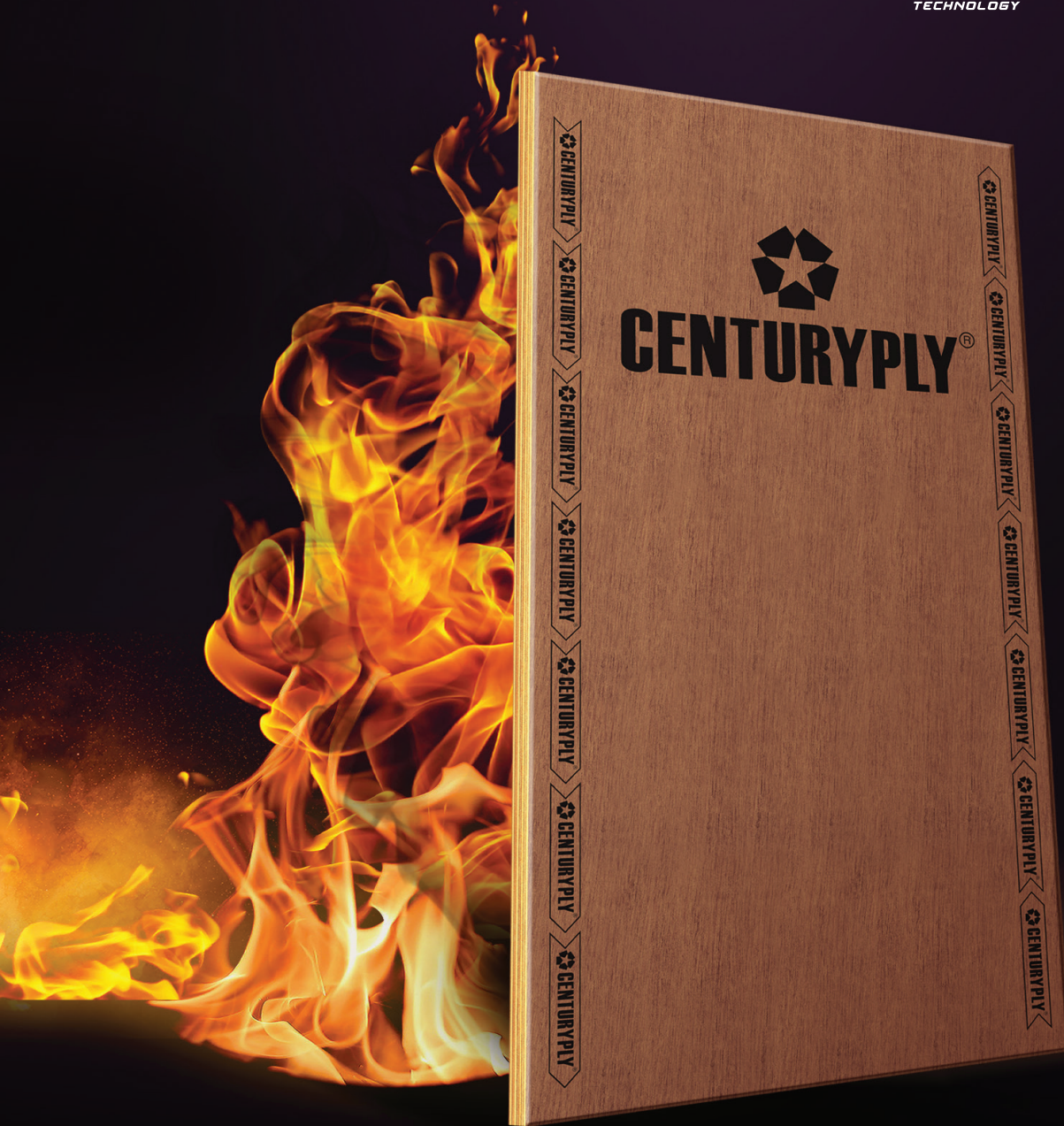


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Volume 16 • Issue 3 Jul-Sep 2022

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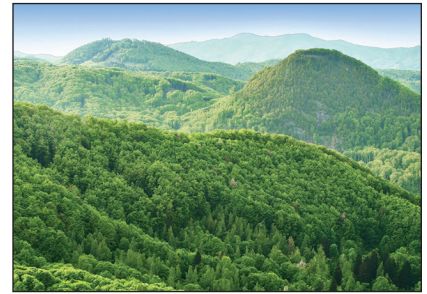
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# The green future of tropical timber

*At the recently convened World Forestry Congress, ITTO stressed the role of tropical timber as a sustainable solution to complex global challenges*

By Ramon Carrillo, Communications and Outreach Officer, ITTO (carrillo@itto.int)



**Putting tropical timber’s case: ITTO stressed the credentials of sustainable timber and wood products as a solution to the world’s complex crises during the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul. Photo: Hwan Ok Ma/ITTO**

**T**ropical forestry that benefits people and nature is important for the sustainable development needed for effective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to combat the triple global environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

This was among the messages delivered by ITTO and other tropical forestry experts during the fifteenth meeting of the World Forestry Congress. Hosted by the Republic of Korea on 2–6 May 2022, the Congress drew more than 15 000 participants from over 140 countries either in person or online to explore opportunities and challenges under the theme of “building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests.”

ITTO Executive Director Sheam Satkuru and other ITTO representatives actively participated in a series of high-level discussions as well as policy and technical sessions during the five-day gathering in Seoul, billed as the largest ever gathering

on forests. ITTO contributed to the Congress as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Consultative Group and a Gold Sponsor with an exhibition booth to disseminate information on the organization’s work to visitors.

### Sustainable benefits

On the opening day, in a dialogue on climate change, conflict and food insecurity, Ms Satkuru emphasized how sustainably managed tropical forests conserve soil and water, filter the air, prevent land degradation and desertification, reduce the risk of floods, landslides, droughts and other disasters. At the same time, they provide stakeholders, including local communities, with much-needed timber, income and materials.

Ms Satkuru also addressed questions on governance; the role of the timber industry in the tropics; the future of young people, women and Indigenous communities; the value, scalability and replicability of successful small ITTO projects; and the

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repercussions of armed conflicts. She noted that the tropical forest sector has changed dramatically in the last 40 years and is well-organized in several tropical countries, but the support of government is essential when it comes to good governance.

Ms Satkuru noted that while “bioeconomy” and “nature-based solutions” are gaining traction as means for building greener, healthier and more-resilient societies, it is important to provide concrete examples. Sustainable forest management (SFM)—although often taken for granted—is one such example because it provides legally and sustainably produced wood, the most environment-friendly construction material. “Sustainable forest harvesting is not deforestation; it is wood security, and wood should be granted the value it deserves,” she said.



**Getting to know ITTO:** A visitor browses through information on ITTO’s activities during the XV World Forestry Congress. Photo: R. Carrillo/ITTO

Later, during a session on landscape approaches, Ms Satkuru stressed the importance of sustainable finance and cross-sectoral cooperation among agriculture, infrastructure, mining and forestry for the conservation of natural tropical forests.

“Coherent approaches are needed for scaling up landscape restoration in the tropics and ensuring economic gains, environmental and social protection,” said Ms Satkuru. “If tropical forests generate sustainable decent incomes, they will remain rather than being converted to other land-uses”.

### **Tropical timber’s green credentials**

On day two of the Congress, ITTO co-organized a special event on “Sustainable Investments in Forests for People, Profit and Nature”. Experts stressed how greater forest finance can catalyze low-carbon economic growth, green jobs and ecosystem restoration while delivering attractive returns, in turn contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The need for good governance and tropical timber’s environmental credentials also featured on day three during a plenary session on the future of wood as a raw material. Panellists noted how increasing recognition of timber as environmentally friendly coupled with technological advances create opportunities to expand the use of sustainable wood.

Speaking at the session, Ms Satkuru said exploiting those opportunities requires effective advocacy to dispel mistrust and misperceptions about the tropical wood industry in some consumer markets. She also noted that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s latest reports have established the centrality of SFM and the use of wood products to climate-change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

ITTO also participated in a session on strengthening governance and verification systems to counter deforestation and forest degradation; a special event on the role of forests in the recovery from COVID-19; a fire management forum; and a side-event on building data foundations for sustainable forest management.



**Managing forest fires:** ITTO took part in a fire management forum during the Congress. Photo: SERFOR

### **Fostering forest education and youth**

ITTO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) partnered in 2019 in a global project designed to catalyze, accelerate and enhance forest education at the national and local levels in developing countries. Results of the project were presented during the Congress, including two digital education platforms launched in 2021: *forestra*, a resource-sharing gateway developed by IUFRO; and an online course on legal and sustainable supply chains (LSSC)<sup>1</sup>, based on ITTO’s work on the production, trade and use of forest products, under its Programme on Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains of Tropical Wood and Tropical Forest Products.



**Generation sustainability:** ITTO’s work raises awareness of sustainable forestry and is an example of the organization’s commitment to supporting the next generation of forestry professionals, including through its Fellowship Programme. Photo: Sarawak Forest Department

ITTO also participated in a special event “The Future is Now: ‘Investing’ in Young Professionals & Career Development”.

<sup>1</sup><https://lsscource.com> Read the TFU article on ITTO’s Online LSSC course in TFU issue No. 30/3–4 at [www.itto.int/tfu/2022/01/07/council\\_appoints\\_new\\_executive\\_director/](http://www.itto.int/tfu/2022/01/07/council_appoints_new_executive_director/)

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The event provided insights and recommendations on improving career development within the forest sector, and establishing a culture and/or a space for young professionals to share their expertise and perspectives. The event recognized that ITTO's long-running Fellowship Programme<sup>2</sup> is an effective mechanism to promote human resource development and strengthen professional expertise in tropical forestry and related disciplines. The ITTO programme awarded three fellowships to young professionals so that they could attend the Congress.

### Opportunities for teak sector

ITTO joined forces with IUFRO and Teaknet to highlight the role of a vibrant teak sector in building back better and improving livelihoods following the COVID-19 crisis. The Congress event also shared the results of an ongoing ITTO initiative to assist governments, local communities and smallholders to improve natural teak forest management, production and marketing in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The initiative aims to facilitate the establishment of legal and sustainable teakwood supply chains while improving national economies and the livelihoods of local communities.

The event set the stage for the 4th World Teak Conference<sup>3</sup> in Accra, Ghana on 5–8 September 2022, where ITTO will be present.

### International forest reporting processes

ITTO co-organized a side-event showcasing the utility of explicit forest reporting frameworks, such as those built around criteria and indicators, in providing a comprehensive picture of forest conditions and their sustainability subject to spatial scale and context. Panellists noted the critical importance of consistency across reporting platforms and the value of accurate interpretation of information gathered for policy- and decision-making.



**Women's champion: Cécile Ndjebet, a Cameroonian activist for gender equality in forest management who is involved in several ITTO activities, receives the 2022 Wangari Maathai award.**  
Photo: World Forest Voices

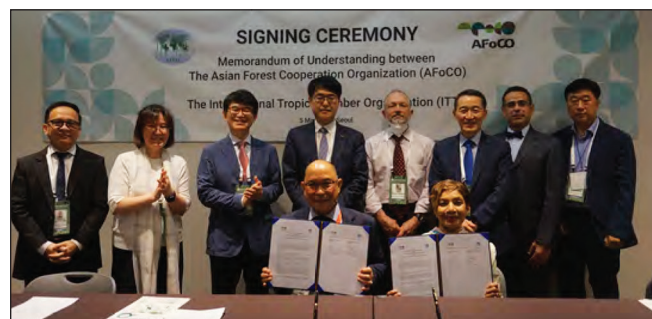
### ITTO projects in poster sessions

Two ITTO projects—one in Brazil and another in Fiji—presented posters at the Congress.

The poster on the Brazilian project<sup>4</sup> showcased initiatives for timber production in community forest in the Amazon. It

emphasized the value that sound forest management practices, such as reduced impact logging, have for forest conservation while also promoting entrepreneurship in the community. The poster asserted that projects assisting forest communities in the production of legal and sustainable timber should be further enhanced with participatory approaches.

The Fijian poster featured the role of empowered women in the restoration of mangrove forests in the Rewa Delta. The corresponding project<sup>5</sup> has conducted community training and awareness-raising in six villages on the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded mangroves and wetlands, seed collection and seedling planting, and the ecological valuation of mangroves and wetlands, while also developing alternative livelihoods. The project has facilitated the inclusion of women in community decision-making processes, enabling them to lead and advocate on environmental issues that affect their lives. For example, the women's group in Nasilai planted 5 000 mangrove seedlings along the foreshore as part of their mangrove restoration and rehabilitation work.



**Stronger together: ITTO and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFOCO) agreed to strengthen their joint work.**  
Photo: AFOCO

### Strengthened ties with AFOCO

ITTO also marked the occasion of the Congress by enhancing its joint work with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFOCO). Ms Satkuru and AFOCO Executive Director Ricardo L. Calderon endorsed a memorandum of understanding to intensify cooperation on the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of tropical forests, as well as the sustainable production and consumption of forest products and ecosystem services.

### Wangari Maathai award

In a ceremony at the Congress, Cameroonian activist Cécile Ndjebet, Founder and President of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award. Presented by the CPF, of which ITTO is a member, the award recognizes Ms Ndjebet's outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them.

Ms Ndjebet has been a tireless promotor of the involvement of women in forest management. In recent years, she has been involved in a mangrove restoration project in Cameroon and a

<sup>2</sup>[www.itto.int/fellowship/](http://www.itto.int/fellowship/)

<sup>3</sup>[www.worldteakconference2020.com/](http://www.worldteakconference2020.com/)

<sup>4</sup>PD 452/07 Rev.5 (F), "Sustainable management of production forests at the commercial scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase II".

<sup>5</sup>PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F), "Community based restoration and sustainable management of vulnerable forests of the Rewa Delta, Fiji".

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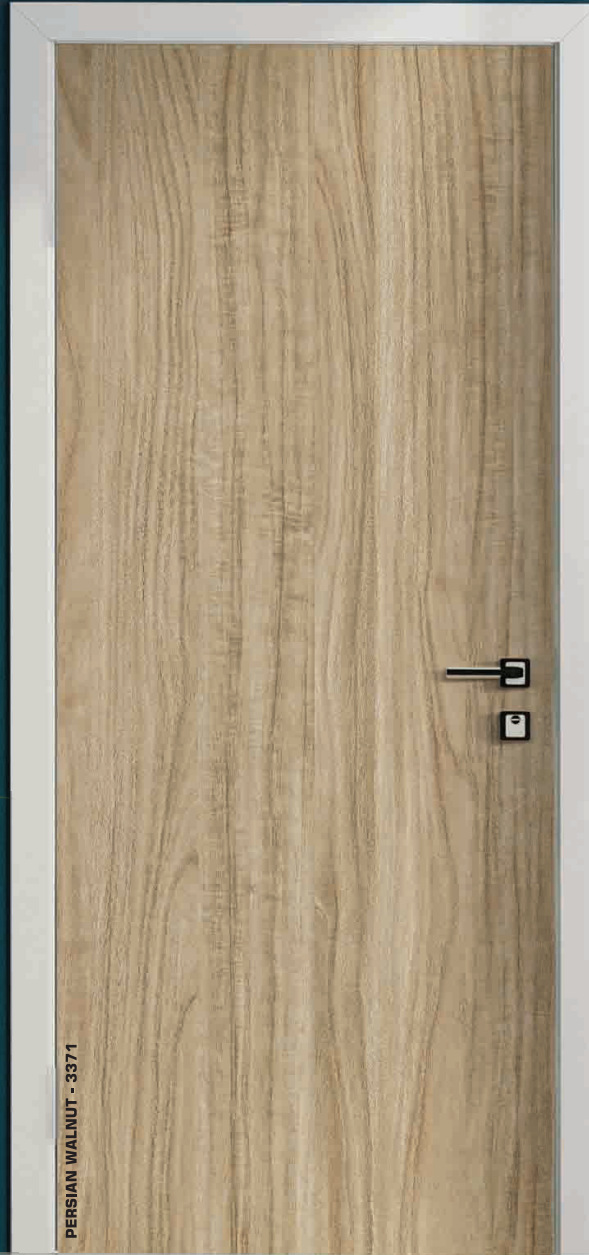
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forest restoration project in Togo, both of which have received ITTO support. ITTO has also invited her to events as an advocate for women's rights and to Council sessions as a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group.

### Congress declaration

The Congress concluded with a declaration identifying priority areas for action. Investment in forest and landscape restoration globally needs to triple by 2030 to meet internationally agreed commitments and targets on restoring degraded land, according to the declaration. The need for healthy, productive forests to reduce the risk of future pandemics and to provide other essential benefits for human physical and mental health.

Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, said the declaration sent "a powerful message that forests, forestry and forest stakeholders offer major solutions to the challenges the world currently faces, but action is needed now." This mirrors ITTO's aspirations, strongly advocated in recent years. □

## World Furniture Expo begins in Mumbai

The 'world of Furniture' (WOFX) expo organised by Worldex India will be held at Bombay Exhibition Center from November 17-19, 2022. As per reports, Over 250 of the world's most innovative companies from countries like Italy, Turkey, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India will be participating in the event. The objective of this exhibition is to act as an ideal sourcing and networking platform for importers, chain stores, hyper markets, trading houses, architects, interior designers, retailers, HORECA professionals, large format retailers, e-tailers, distributors, franchisees, agents, corporate sourcing heads, government procurement agencies and other key buyers.

Speaking about the upcoming expo, Rajesh Bhagat, Chairman and Managing Director, Worldex said that World Furniture Expo brings an altogether new experience with the right combination of international and regional brands. It is perhaps the most important international B2B platform in India dedicated to the Furniture & Design industry for companies looking to expand their markets and for international companies who wish to enter the vast Indian and South Asian market. During the course of the event, various Interactive business forums and networking activities to gather market intelligence and build industry connections will take place.

There will also be a "States of India Zone" that will highlight the talent, craftsmanship and heritage of artisans and manufacturers from different states of India. The Government of Uttar Pradesh state pavilion shall display the full range of products of the Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council (UPEPC). The event is being supported by Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council (UPEPC) and industry Associations like the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI), the Hotel & Restaurant Association Western India (HRAWI), Association of Designers of India (ADI), and by many more organisations. □

## Govt Should Identify & Recognize Agro Forestry – Sajjan Bhajanka



Sajjan Bhajanka President, Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry is a well known Crusader in wood based industry. As usual he has contributed a lot for the climate change and wood based industry. He has participated in many government and non-government organisations and meetings which gave new direction to the industry. He has motivated the industry towards self reliance. FIPPI has taken up one more challenge under his leadership and is determined to achieve success in it. That is to differentiate wood based industry dependance on agri wood and its entanglement with forest act.

He has strongly put the case in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his letter dated August 10, 2022 for creating a new agri wood act which should be totally independent of forest act.

It has been found that agro wood is trapped in agriculture and forest ministries which has created many problems for the healthy growth and success of the wood based industry of India. If it was not under the forest act, the Indian wood based industry would have been a world leader. Farmers would have been rich. Employment would have been much higher. Allied industries would have grown in double digits.

Considering all these factors and many more Shri Sajjan Bhajanka had earlier asked the government to exclude agri Wood from forest. The reply received from the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate, New Delhi over two years back (11.09.2020) had been positive and taken in consideration. But after that nothing was done. Hence the frustration has mounted a lot in the industry, which is facing hardships on all parameters.

Sajjan Bhajanka has written a letter and requested PM Narendra Modi for a strong stance to immediately start acting on creating a new Agriwood act,

- To drop the word forestry.
- To use the word Agriwood.
- To expedite the process. □

# Environment Ministry Reviews Indian Forests Act, Proposes to Decriminalise Certain Violations



The Environment Ministry has issued a notice for public consultation seeking people's views and comments to the proposed amendments by July 31.

With its focus on speeding up resolution of forest-related violations, the government has now proposed to amend the Indian Forests Act, 1927 — the umbrella act for protection of forests resources, forest biodiversity and wildlife of the country — which, if implemented, could do away with imprisonment for several violations under the Act.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued a notice for public consultation seeking people's views and comments to the proposed amendments by July 31.

According to the ministry, the amendments are aimed at decriminalising “relatively minor violations” of law which could help in expeditious resolution of complaints, reduce compliance burden on citizens, rationalise penalties, and subsequently prevent harassment of citizens.

The proposed changes concern Section 23 and 33 of Indian Forests Act, 1927, which details certain acts that are prohibited in forests for protection and conservation.

The amendments seek to decriminalise offences like kindling, keeping or carrying fire in a reserved forest without permission, trespassing or pasturing cattle or causing any damage by negligence in felling any tree in a reserved forest. They also seek to decriminalise acts like leaving a burning fire kindled by the person in the vicinity of any tree reserved under Section 30, or felling any tress or dragging timber to damage any reserved tree, or permitting cattle to damage such tree.

The offences were earlier punishable with imprisonment for a term which could even extend to six months, a penalty that the Environment Ministry now seeks to remove.

“At times, there are difficulties in differentiating between a major and minor offence and because of that punishments are often not distinct,” stated the ministry. “This abets habitual offenders to commit more crimes as there is same level of punishment for both first time and repeat offender. Hence, it is required to incorporate differentiate penal provisions in the Act by amending IFA, 1927.”

The substantive changes in the Section 26 (c), (d) and (e) and Section 33 (e), (f), and (g) of the IFA, 1927 will remove the provision of imprisonment, and the offences will now only remain punishable with a fine which may extend to Rs 500, in addition to such compensation for damage done to the forest as the convicting court may direct to be paid.

The umbrella Act provides the legal framework for the protection and management of forests, transit of forest produce and timber, and the duty leviable on timber and other forest produce. In case of non-compliance, the offender can be punished with fines and imprisonment.

Citizens can share their views and comments with the ministry by July 31. □



## Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI)

*(Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)*

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IPIRTI is a premier National Research & Training Institute in the field of Plywood and panel products with excellent laboratory and pilot plant facilities. The Institute has been meeting the human resource needs of the growing plywood and Panel Product Industries for various positions such as Production Managers, Quality Control Managers, Marketing Managers, Team Leaders and Chemists. IPIRTI is running its a flagship One-Year **PG diploma course in WOOD AND PANEL PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY** since more than 30 years.

**Campus interview for the successful trainees of 32nd Batch is scheduled on Wednesday the 30th November, 2022 at IPIRTI Campus.** Interested industry or organizations may send a line of confirmation for their willingness to participate in the Campus Interview by email at [director@ipirti.gov.in](mailto:director@ipirti.gov.in).

Any corrigendum to above notification, student's biodata and other information will be available at [www.ipirti.gov.in](http://www.ipirti.gov.in). for further information or clarification please contact Dr. Manoj K. Dubey, Joint Director (Phone: 080-30534004 E-mail [manojkumar@ipirti.gov.in](mailto:manojkumar@ipirti.gov.in)) and Dr. V.K. Upadhyay, Training Coordinator & Head SORIT Division, (Tel. No. 080-30534049, E- [upadhyay@ipirti.gov.in](mailto:upadhyay@ipirti.gov.in))

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*Wood-clad frames are reportedly known to offer low maintenance and optimum insulation value*

## Window and door frames market to gain traction from commercial application

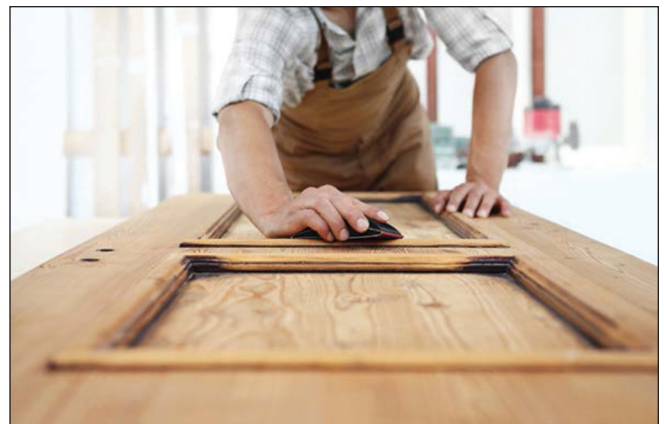
By Pooja Sharma

The window and door frames market is set to grow from its current market value of more than US\$107.7 billion to over \$158bn, as reported in the latest study by Global Market Insights.

Over the forthcoming years, the demand for window and door frames is expected to reach an ambit in revenue and sales, owing to their rising prominence for offering hinging and closing, levelling and support, and locking and protection benefits. While doors are important in terms of access, safety and privacy, windows are needed to ensure light and ventilation as well as to add aesthetics to buildings.

This has only multiplied the requirement for frames as they seal around and offer support to the entire system. In addition to forging an aesthetic sense, frames play a part in augmenting the overall energy efficiency and performance of windows and glazed doors.

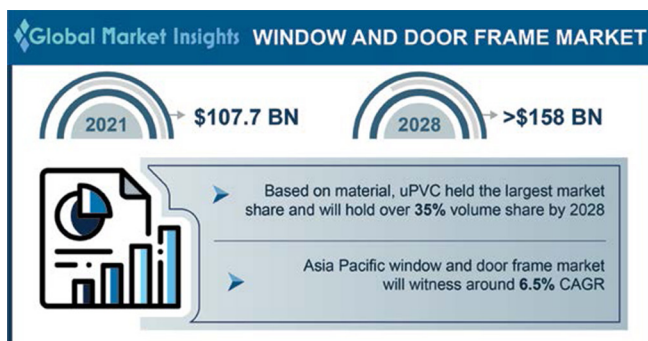
To drive the transformation of the window and door frames industry space, several manufacturers and suppliers are placing targeted efforts on leading marketing initiatives as well as product differentiation and launches. For instance, in September 2021, the residual assets of Atis Group, a manufacturer of doors, windows and energy efficient products, were bought by Fenplast Windows and Doors, another manufacturer of doors and windows, to ensure its own increased production capacity to cater to the growing residential and multi-family markets.



**Wood is preferred for the construction of door & window frames**

### Wood as chief material

To impart architectural beauty to buildings and facilitate ease of maintenance, wood is preferred for the construction



of door and window frames. The availability of the material has stirred its adoption to meet the rising requirements of the building, while taking note of the availability of the project budget. In fact, wood-clad frames are employed as insulators and are known to offer low maintenance and optimum insulation value.

The rising preference for wooden homes, most notably in Japan, European and American regions will act as a prominent boost for these frames. It has been estimated that over 90%, or 814,000, of new homes in the US in 2019 were wood-framed.

### Growing penetration in commercial applications

The window and door frame industry will gain proceeds in the commercial sector to facilitate the proper fixity and hinge action of shutters in a bid to offer sturdiness and safety when opening the door. On account of their versatile properties, seasoned teakwood frames are favoured. The US is home to over 5.5 million commercial buildings. This expanding number of

commercial establishments will positively influence the demand for frames in the near future.

However, of late, aluminum door and window frames are witnessing profound usage in high-class buildings and commercial and offices, to impart an architectural view for enhancing the aesthetics and facilitating smooth working. These frames not only provide beautiful looks and less maintenance costs, but also do not require any painting obligations and are free from termite attacks and rusting problems.

To summarise, different window and door frames are used for different purposes while catering to the growing residential and commercial requirements. They offer benefits like good insulation properties, better strength and durability, consequently adding to the longevity of the doors and windows. In comparison to interior frames, exterior and interior ones exhibit additional properties to face varying weather elements.

(Source: Wood in Architecture). □

## Homebuyers' body requests RERA implementation in West Bengal



**H**omebuyers apex body FPCE has written a letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging her to take necessary steps to make real estate law RERA functional in the state within one month.

Forum For People's Collective Efforts (FPCE), an umbrella body of homebuyers that played an important role in enactment and implementation of RERA, expressed concern over real estate law RERA still being non-functional in West Bengal, leaving buyers at the mercy of builders.

FPCE President Abhay Upadhyay, who is also a member of central advisory committee, RERA, wrote a letter on August 16, to the chief minister over the long wait for implementation of The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) in West Bengal.

In May last year, the Supreme Court had struck down the West Bengal government's law WBHIRA for regulating the real estate sector, saying it was "unconstitutional". The state government had introduced the West Bengal Housing Industry Regulatory Act (WBHIRA) as a substitute for the central law RERA, which was passed by Parliament in 2016.

The apex court's ruling came on a plea filed by the FPCE. "We regret to inform you that 'West Bengal Real Estate Regulatory Authority' and 'West Bengal Real Estate Appellate Tribunal' are still not functional in West Bengal," Upadhyay said.

He said that the appointment of chairperson and members of the regulatory authority as well as the Appellate Tribunal; creation of web page; and setting up of other infrastructure as needed for enforcement of RERA has also not yet been done. "This has encouraged builders to blatantly violate the provisions of RERA. They are launching, advertising and selling real estate projects without registration in the state..." the FPCE President said.

Real estate developers are continuing malpractices, the association said. It listed out some of the bad practices like taking more than 10 per cent money from homebuyers without executing Builder-Buyer Agreement, diverting funds from the projects, and changing the sanctioned plans, layout and specifications after project has been sold without taking consent of 2/3rd allottees for gains, etc.

All such actions of builders are expressly barred under RERA to protect the interest of homebuyers but builders are violating the norms as regulatory authority is not yet functional.

The association also pointed out that homebuyers, who had preferred complaints before the erstwhile WBHIRA are left in the lurch, as they have nowhere to go for furtherance of their complaints.

The association also reminded that elected governments have been assigned by the constitution the important responsibility to ensure effective implementation of the law of the land so that citizens get justice within reasonable time as justice delayed is justice denied. The FPCE President hoped that the Chief Minister will give "sympathetic consideration" to its appeal in the best interest of the state and also all its stakeholders. □

# Four trends strengthening outlook of Wooden Furniture market over 2022-2027

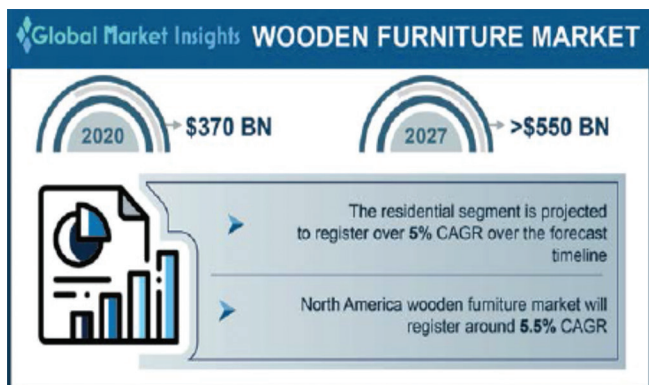
By Priya Deshmukh, Content Writer, Global Market Insights



The wooden furniture market is set to grow from its current market value of more than US\$370 billion to over \$550bn, as reported in the latest study by Global Market Insights.

The proliferating demand for luxury furniture, in conjunction with the increasing consumer expenditure and rapid urbanisation, has created an enormous demand for wooden furniture in recent years. In addition, the changing consumer lifestyles and rising disposable incomes are further driving the adoption of wooden furnishings. The rising demand for customisation of home interiors to enhance aesthetics is favouring the expansion of the wooden furniture market.

Apart from these factors, the introduction of innovative wooden furniture trends has also enhanced the industry landscape further. For instance, in 2020, heritage office furniture manufacturer Bisley introduced its latest flexible furniture collection, which has been developed to meet the requirements of the 2020 workplace that have been created during the pandemic.



## Strategic initiatives by key industry players

The key manufacturers active in the wooden furniture industry are focusing on forming strategic alliances to develop innovative solutions and gain a competitive edge in the market. To illustrate, in 2021, furniture manufacturers Herman Miller and Knoll entered a \$1.8bn partnership. This strategic move is aimed at forming a single design entity and running the retail as well as e-commerce business together.

## Mounting adoption in residential sector

The availability of limited storage space in average-sized homes across various countries coupled with the rising popularity of modular furniture is providing lucrative growth prospects for the industry. This has urged industry players to expand their portfolio of modular furniture. For instance, in 2021, Chromcraft introduced McKenzie & Co, a new division providing modular and fully upholstered furniture. In addition, the increased sales of fitted furniture, especially in the bedroom segment, is positively influencing the industry statistics. Reportedly, the residential segment in the wooden furniture market is anticipated to register a notable CAGR of over 5% through 2027.

## Heightened demand for dining room furniture

Dining room furniture plays a crucial role in the furniture segment owing to its essential characteristics and the significance of food in different cultures. The growing consumer demand for counter-height tables, small case pieces, and dining tables as a part of fulfilling their need for versatile and informal dining is favouring the business growth. Besides, the increasing adoption of other accessories such as whiskey, wine, and vodka racks along with the dining furniture is further propelling the market value.

## Burgeoning furniture demand in north america

The rising demand for furniture such as kitchen furniture cabinets, dining tables, storage, upholstered and nonupholstered components is strongly driving the industry growth in North America. The consumers are largely focusing on enhancing the interior design and aesthetics which is further impelling the demand for wooden furniture with different colours and textures. The market expansion is further impelled by the rising product adoption in the non-residential spaces including hospitals, schools, colleges, hotels, and commercial offices.

Considering the increasing consumer expenditure, the North American wooden furniture market is expected to register a robust CAGR of around 5.5% through 2027. The rising demand for luxurious wooden furniture driven by the growing need to enhance aesthetics and increasing disposable incomes is opening ample growth opportunities for the market. In addition, the emerging wooden furniture trends with the rising demand for natural textures and styles are further supporting the market expansion. (Source: Photo & Furniture Article). □

# Century Ply targets ₹1,000 crore of capex through brownfield, greenfield expansion

*Another ₹200 crore of investment in the laminate facility by Century Plyboards is expected*



**K**olkata-based Century Plyboards, which is looking at a 20 to 25 per cent growth in turnover YoY in FY23, is planning to bring on-stream capex worth ₹1,000 crore over the next couple of years across units in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Nearly ₹700 crore of investments across MDF units are expected – brownfield expansion in Hoshiarpur (Punjab) by October and another greenfield project in Andhra by December 2023. ₹200 crore of investment in the laminate facility – another greenfield project also at Andhra – is likely to be on-stream by September next year, Keshav Bhajanka, ED, Century Plyboards said. Another ₹100 crore of investments are expected to be

made in plywood. However, investments in this case “are not yet frozen”. A substantial part of the proposed investments are expected to be made from internal accruals, with the company generating anticipated cash profit generations to be in the tune of ₹500 to 600 crore, every year.

“For the year, we see a 20 to 25 per cent growth in turnover, while keeping the Q1 run rate intact. Indications are Q2 will have a similar run rate as the previous quarter. We see good demand on the ground. And with a new unit coming into operations in October. And other investments are on track as per schedule,” he told BusinessLine.

### War chest

In Q1 FY23, the company reported a turnover of ₹882 crore, up 96 per cent YoY, while EBITDA was around ₹151 crore. Margins (Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) increased to 17.2 per cent, versus 14.7 per cent YoY. The company said in its investor presentation that it has further tightened the balance sheet in Q1 FY23 by virtue of prudent working capital management (improvement by five days compared to the last fiscal), augmenting its war chest for future capex. Net cash on books as on June 30, 2022 was ₹184 crore.

“The Return on Average Capital Employed (ROACE) is expected at 20 to 25 per cent and upwards. So with the investments we are making, cash profits would improve. A chunk of these would be re-deployed as capital,” Bhajanka said. For Q1, the ROACE was 29.36 per cent.

The shift from the unorganised sector to the organised sector is happening, leading to strong growth for the bigger players, he said, adding that the company’s focus continues to be a turnover of ₹5,000 crore in three years. □

## Researchers from Singapore University develop transparent fire-resistant wood coating

**R**esearchers from Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have developed a coating that prevents wood surfaces from catching fire. According to The Straits Times, the coating begins to foam up once it comes into contact with the fire, expanding to form a layer of insulation and protecting the wood underneath. About only 75 microns of the coating is required to protect the wood surface from fire, but the wood has to be cured overnight. Upon removing the layer, the wood panel remains unscathed by the extreme heat of about 800°C. When heated to 300°C, the resin coating expands by up to 100 times in thickness, and it is this expansion that insulates and protects the wood from heat, according to associate professor Aravind Dasari from the NTU School of Materials Science and Engineering. “Most timber or wooden panels only have a transparent coat that protects them from moisture, weather corrosion, termites or pests, and are not designed to withstand high heat. Thus, timber can still burn very quickly,



especially if it is unprotected,” Dasari told The Straits Times. The professor added that current methods of making wood fire-resistant would also obscure the natural appearance of the wood, and these methods might also be toxic and costly.

Source: The Straits Times. □

# Cabinet OKs enhanced climate action goals under Paris Agreement



Taking a step towards achieving India’s long-term goal of reaching ‘net zero’ emission by 2070, the Cabinet.. approved the country’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) — climate action targets — committing to achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil-fuel-based energy resources by 2030 and to reduce emissions intensity (emission per unit of GDP) by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level. India, however, makes its non-fossil-fuel-based (renewable as well as nuclear) electricity target conditional on international finance and technological support even as the country has, so far, made substantial progress on its earlier commitments largely financed from domestic resources.

at COP26 in Glasgow, UK, into enhanced climate targets. It, however, prefers not to quantify its electricity goal in gigawatt-term (500GW) as announced earlier and remains silent on reduction of total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030. It, at the same time, clarified that 50% of ‘energy’ requirements from renewable energy by 2030, as stated in Glasgow, is to be counted in terms of non-fossil-fuel-based ‘electricity’ installed capacity.

“In our view, we should have been as ambitious as we were in Glasgow,” said environmentalist Sunita Narain of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). On the non-fossil by 2030, we will need to have 65-70% installed capacity of non/fossil sources... This is ambitious and will be expensive and this is why we need to make this conditional to international finance.”

India’s updated NDC will be implemented by 2030 through programmes and schemes of relevant ministries/departments and with due support from states and UTs. Flagging India’s vision of “sustainable lifestyles” and “climate justice” to protect the poor and vulnerable from adverse impacts of climate change as a core theme of the updates, the NDC also emphasises on “citizen-centric approach” and mentions a need to have mass movement for ‘LIFE’ — Lifestyle for Environment — as a key to combat climate change.

NDCs are basically the voluntary targets of countries under the Paris Agreement to collectively reach the goal of keeping the global average temperature rise well below 2° Celsius while making efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial (1850-1900) level. Though many countries have submitted their updated NDCs, analysis of their new targets shows the world continues to fall short to achieve its intended goal.

India’s NDC, however, does not bind it to any sector-specific mitigation obligation or action. “India’s goal is to reduce overall emission intensity and improve energy efficiency of its economy over time and at the same time protect the vulnerable sectors of the economy and segments of our society,” clarified the government while making a statement on the updated targets. It, however, mentioned how its ‘net zero’ target of the Railways by 2030 alone will lead to a reduction of emissions by 60 million tonnes annually. □

**A STEP TOWARDS ‘NET ZERO’ BY 2070**

**Commitments under updated NDC of 2022:**

- Achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- Reduce emissions intensity (emission per unit of GDP) by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels
- Propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for ‘LIFE’- ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ – as a key to combat climate change (citizen-centric approach to combat climate change)

**What does earlier (first) NDC of 2015 say:**

**It has three quantitative targets up to 2030**

- Cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40%
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35% compared to 2005 levels
- Creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover
- It was submitted to the UNFCCC on October 2, 2015

Making new pledges, the country clearly says that it will achieve its target of 50% cumulative electric power from non-fossil-fuel-based energy resources “with the help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund (GCF)”. The updated NDC is soon to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

India’s new commitment actually translates the ‘Panchamrit’, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

# Greenply Industries Ltd Revenues grew by 74% and PAT grew by 415% YoY New plywood plant near Lucknow started commercial operations First phase of machinery installation started for MDF project near Vadodara



**G**reenply Industries Limited, India’s leading manufacturer of Plywood and allied products today announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. Below are the key financial highlights for the same:

### Consolidated – Q1 FY23

- Revenue at ₹453.5 crores, grew by 73.9% on yoy basis
- Adjusted Core EBITDA (excluding non-cash ESOP cost of Rs 3.9 crores) was ₹44.0 crores; grew by 171.7% on y-o-y basis with margins of 9.7%
- Profit after tax (PAT) was at ₹20.7 crores; a growth of 415.0% on y-o-y basis
- Net debt was at ₹349.4 crores and net debt-equity ratio was at 0.62 times

### Result Highlights

Rs/Crores	Q1 FY23	Q1 FY22	%Change Y-o-Y	Q4 FY22	%Change Q-o-Q
Revenue	453.5	260.8	73.9%	448.6	1.1%
Adj. Core EBITDA	44.0	16.2	171.7%	47.5	-7.3%
Adj. Core EBITDA %	9.7%	6.2%	350 BPS	10.6%	-88 BPS
PAT	20.7	4.0	415.0%	29.0	-28.4%
PAT %	4.6%	1.5%	303 BPS	6.5%	-189 BPS

### New Project Status Updates

- The company has started commercial operations at its greenfield plywood manufacturing unit at district Sandila, Lucknow, U.P.
- The company is setting up a greenfield MDF board manufacturing unit with the capacity of 800 CBM per day at district Vadodara, Gujarat. Machinery despatches and installation has started, and civil construction work is going as planned. The expected COD of the plant is Q4FY23.

Commenting on the performance for Q1 FY23, Mr. Manoj Tulsian, JMD & CEO, Greenply Industries Ltd. said “In a challenging macro environment, we continued to grow across our portfolio. While input cost inflation continues to hurt the margins, we expect demand to be favourable with significant growth momentum in real estate specially semi-urban and rural areas. At the forefront of driving innovation, we recently launched “Green Platinum” with 2x Fire resistance, 2x waterproof and 2x moneyback guarantee. It is a new generation product with better value proposition and we expect to get good response from customers.

We are happy to share that we achieved commercial production at our plywood unit at Sandila, Lucknow (U.P.) and capacity expansion plans are going as scheduled in our upcoming MDF unit at Vadodara. We would continue to thrive with our brand’s appeal and distribution reach supported by shift in industry towards organised players. □

## Furniture cluster to come up on 300 acres of land in Indore



**A** furniture cluster is being set up in the Betma Khurd village’s 300 acres of land in the Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. The Indore International Mega-Furniture Cluster Association (IIMFCA) is holding an interactive session with Charles Spang, furniture expert from the US on September 9, 2022. Spang, the chief global sales officer of the leading American home furnishings manufacturer and retailer, Ashley Furniture Industries will also speak with OP Sakhlecha, MSME minister of the state. He will further share his thoughts and suggestion about the forthcoming furniture cluster. Under the cluster more than 150 industries will be set up where over 20,000 people will get employment and investments of more than Rs 2,000 crore is expected. He will also interact with members of the IIMFCA at the Brilliant Convention Centre in the afternoon. Officials from Invest India, MSME department and DIC will also be present. □

# Bent Plywood is a Signature Material Among Modern Furniture Manufacturers and Architects



The durability and adaptability of the material continue to appeal to furniture manufacturers and designers. One of the material properties of plywood is its equal strength in every direction, which allows plywood pieces to be shaped into complex ergonomic forms.

## The limitless potential of bent plywood has inspired experimentation among furniture manufacturers and interior designers

Bent plywood is used to create abstract sculptures, while furniture manufacturers use more extreme variants of the curves used in furniture. The material will be metamorphosed from something to be hidden to an artistic medium in its own right.

In the meantime, architects created curving walls and undulating interiors by taking architectural space into consideration, in addition to furniture manufacturers who were using plywood's versatility in creative designs.



Their pieces of furniture demonstrate the extraordinary adaptability and durability of the substance, ensuring plywood maintains its reputation as a superb material in the design community. The influence of bent plywood on the modern world can be seen in everything from cars to boats to aeroplanes to furniture and wooden items like chairs and tables.

## Processing of Bent Ply

The bent plywood plates for seats, shells, and backrests are contour milled using multi-axis CNC milling machines, and if necessary, drilled. Here, creating a new milling programme is all it takes for another contour to add variation. The parts are prepared for finishing after the fastening mounts have been assembled and the edges have been sanded.

With fixtureless CNC milling machines, bent plywood blanks for chair frames and components are automatically cut, ground, and treated. It is possible to create pre-finished components or entire racks by using specialised joining techniques as screw, dowel, spring, or mortise and tenon joints.

## There's a reason why designers from all over the world favour bent plywood!

It enables the creation of innovative furniture concepts without the need for significant effort, leading to a wide spectrum of innovations in the furniture industry.

The most intriguing feature of bent ply is that it may be waxed, painted, stained, oiled, or lacquered to complement your decor or just left untreated to highlight its woody appearance.

After being bonded, veneered, or laminated, this kind of plywood will hold its shape without needing any additional or auxiliary support or structure. As a result, it turns out to be less expensive and time-consuming.

It has good dimensional stability, so your furniture will keep its shape for many years because it does not lend itself to corrugation, undulation, or thickness change.

The flexibility and ease of working make carpentry work, which is typically tough and time-consuming, simple and rapid. Therefore, this plywood is excellent for carpenters as well. □

## Indian Wood & Allied Panels

A Quarterly Publication on Plywood / Wood & Bamboo Based Panel Products

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## HOMAG sets up APAC Hotline for regional servicing

To better respond to their Asia-Pacific customers' production needs and issues, HOMAG has set up the new APAC Hotline to provide shorter response time by their specialists in the same time zone.

Previously, HOMAG has a hotline based in Germany for global service. However, this meant that Asia-Pacific customers had to establish an online connection to Germany in a different time zone for remote diagnostics. The challenge of different time zone was thus addressed with the establishment of the APAC Hotline.

"APAC Hotline is an organisation consisting of qualified and competent engineer specialists with many experiences in their respective fields who are ready to help customers in Asia-Pacific quickly when they have any problem with their machines or software via online connection," explained Ilham Perdana, project manager of APAC Hotline.

APAC Hotline consists of engineer specialists from HOMAG Asia based in Singapore, HOMAG Australia and HOMAG India, and hence the operational hours of APAC Hotline stay within this region. The hotline will receive all questions surrounding the topics of mechanics, control, electricity, process engineering on the machine, and any software issues.

Customers can contact their HOMAG local representatives first by using email, telephone or various digital solution applications. After establishing contact, the HOMAG specialist, whether from the local team or the APAC Hotline, will take the



customer's request to work out a solution. The assistance will then be performed remotely. □

## Single-use plastic ban pushes demand for wood and bamboo dealers



Manufacturers in search of eco-friendly alternatives ahead of the single-use plastic ban in effect from today (July 1) increased the demand for wood and bamboo dealers on Just Dial from 35 per cent (QoQ) from March to May 2022. The IT Company which acts as a local search engine has said that the highest demand has been for wood dealers at 80% and the remaining searches were for bamboo dealers.

As per Just Dial's latest consumer insight the demand also

went up for a wide range of wooden cutlery like spoons, knives, and forks, wooden trays, wooden stirrers, wooden ice cream spoons, and bamboo sticks.

Commenting on the report, Prasad Kumar, CMO, Just Dial said, "Sustainability is at the core of businesses now and is bringing changes across the funnel. This has led to a spike in demand for wood and bamboo dealers as manufacturers look for sustainable alternatives for single-use plastics to comply with government regulations."

Just Dial has aggregated a large base of wood and bamboo dealers on the platform. Searches for wood and bamboo dealers in Tier-I cities were up by 22% and in Tier-II by 29%, he added.

Delhi and Mumbai topped the demand for wood dealers at almost 50% among Tier-I cities searches.

Kolkata saw the maximum rise in demand at 22% for wood dealers.

Delhi also topped the demand for bamboo dealers with Mumbai and Bengaluru in the second and third place, respectively.

Chandigarh, Jaipur, Guwahati, Lucknow, and Jalandhar were the top-5 with maximum searches for wood and bamboo dealers among Tier-II towns and cities. □

# Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended global timber markets, bringing supply and price shocks

Compiled by Mike Adams from ITTO's Market Information Service and other sources



A crisis also for commodities: The Russian Federation has pressed on with its military campaign in Ukraine despite widespread protests. Photo: P.-J. Walewski.

At the time of writing, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been going on for more than 100 days. As well as unleashing a humanitarian crisis, the war has added to mounting concerns of a sharp global economic slowdown. Inflation and debt are surging, and poverty levels are spiking as the shocks from the conflict compound the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The economic impact has reverberated through multiple channels, including commodity and financial markets, and trade and migration flows, and has undermined business confidence. No sector, it seems, will be immune from the impact of this man-made catastrophe.

Countries around the world have imposed sanctions on Russia and Belarus, who have retaliated by banning some trade—including in wood products—with what Moscow calls “unfriendly” countries. These include major timber importers the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, the United States of America (US) and Japan. Trade continues with China and India at an increased pace as prices for commodities such as oil and timber from Russia and Belarus are heavily discounted.

Before the war, Russia was the world’s largest exporter of sawnwood and the fourth-largest exporter of wood products. While China is the largest recipient of Russian timber, absorbing roughly 40% of the total, Japan and EU-member Finland are also among the major importers. Moreover, a sizable share of imports of wood products into so-called “unfriendly” countries also came from Russia.

## “Conflict timber”

Timber trade flows changed almost instantly when Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. Trade sanctions and restrictions on financial transactions imposed by governments in Europe, North America and Asia halted shipments from Russia and Belarus. Exports from Ukraine were also disrupted.

In addition, the two major wood certification organizations, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for

the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), have labelled all timber from the two countries as “conflict timber”. This timber can no longer be used in products deemed certified, which will impact any country buying wood from Russia or Belarus to manufacture products for the international market.

Table 1: Russian exports of wood products in 2021

Product	Value (USD billions)
Sawn softwood	5.8
Paper products	2
Wood panels	1.9
Wood pulp	1.3
Hardwood logs	0.5
Softwood logs	0.5
Wood pellets	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.3</b>

Data source: Comtrade

Russia is a significant player in world markets for both softwood and hardwood products. In 2020 Russia exported over USD 8 billion in wood products, making it the world’s fourth largest exporter; in 2021 that number rose to USD 12 billion (Table 1). Asia and Europe were Russia’s primary markets.

Russia is the largest supplier of birch plywood, a product in great demand in global markets. In recent years annual imports of Russian birch plywood into Europe have been at around 1.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, with smaller but significant volumes going into the US market either directly from Russia or indirectly as plywood manufactured in China or Viet Nam from imported Russian logs or veneer.

Table 2: EU27 wood and wood furniture imports from Russia and Belarus in the first quarters of 2020, 2021 & 2022.

Source	EU imports (1 000 tonnes)		
	Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
All sources	6151.3	5955.4	6178.1
Russia	1743.3	1853.4	1576.1
Belarus	1040.9	828.8	698.2
Sub total	2784.2	2682.2	2274.3
% Russia and Belarus	45%	45%	37%

Source: ITTO analysis of Eurostat data.

In 2021 Belarus exported wood and wood products worth USD 3 billion. More than half of sales were to the EU. Exports included furniture worth USD 891 million (43% to the EU), sawnwood of USD 802 million (86% to the EU), chipboard and fibreboard of USD 411.5 million (27% to the EU) and USD 369 million (35% to the EU), respectively.

The trade embargoes by timber importing countries and the export bans by Russia and Belarus have disrupted supply chains but the impact in the affected importing countries varies depending on the wood product and level of dependency on imports and is only beginning to emerge.

**Europe bears the brunt of sanctions**

The EU has progressively imposed trade sanctions on Russia. Initially introduced in response to the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol in 2014, the sanctions regime was expanded massively in February 2022 after Russia formally recognized separatist-held areas of Ukraine’s Donbas region and then sent its own forces over the border.<sup>1</sup> The wood sector is specifically identified in the EU sanctions so that all imports of wood products from Russia are now banned.

In addition, in response to the role of Belarus in support of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the EU has banned all trade in wood products with Belarus, and all trans-shipment of Belarus wood products to other countries via the EU.

Overall, the measures are expected to add to the volatility of wood markets in the EU and contribute to a significant wood supply deficit because around 45% of wood imports, by tonnage, into the EU from outside the bloc were formerly derived from Russia and Belarus. Data for the first quarter of 2022 suggest that the two countries’ share of EU imports is already falling sharply (Table 2).

**Japanese plywood manufacturers seek alternatives**

Russia stopped exporting veneer and wood chips to Japan in March, a big blow to Japanese softwood plywood manufacturers. Those companies began frantically looking for alternatives but it will be very difficult to quickly replace the large volume that came from Russia (annual imports of Russian larch veneer were about 250 000 m<sup>3</sup>).

An option is to switch to domestic logs to manufacture veneer but this would lead to a surge in local prices as log supplies are tight. Japan Lumber Reports suggests that domestic manufacturers don’t have the capacity to produce and dry more veneer to replace imports, even if log supplies could be secured. Other possible alternatives include North American Douglas fir, New Zealand radiata pine, and Australian and Brazilian eucalyptus, along with domestic larch.

As a result, plywood production in Japan is forecast to fall by 20 000–30 000 m<sup>3</sup> a month—a 20% decline.

Substituting with tropical hardwood plywood would be a challenge as the main suppliers are struggling with log supplies and there are challenges in increasing imports from China.

In January, even before the invasion of Ukraine, Russia banned log exports, which hit Japanese millers hard. However, it stopped short of a sawnwood ban. In 2021, Japan’s imports of Russian sawnwood were 848 000 m<sup>3</sup> and have been over 800 000 m<sup>3</sup> since 2016 (Table 3), an indication of the strong demand for Russian sawnwood.

In April, The Japanese government cancelled the most-favored-nation trade arrangement for Russia, which meant import duties on all products almost doubled. To support the sawnwood sector, the Forestry Agency has reportedly decided to give financial aid to building companies changing to domestic sawnwood. This follows the government’s ban on sawnwood imports from Russia. It is reported that about JPY 4 billion

(USD 30 million) will be made available from the government’s reserve fund for transport subsidies.<sup>2</sup>

**Setback for Russian exports to US**

Until it invaded Ukraine, Russia benefitted from booming exports of manufactured wood products to the US. Direct US imports from Russia were mainly hardwood plywood (74%), oriented strand board/waferboard (10%) and softwood lumber (10%).

Russia was suppling only about 10% of the hardwood plywood America uses, the vast majority being birch plywood. However, some of the hardwood plywood shipped to the US by major suppliers China and Viet Nam is also undoubtedly manufactured from imported Russian birch logs.

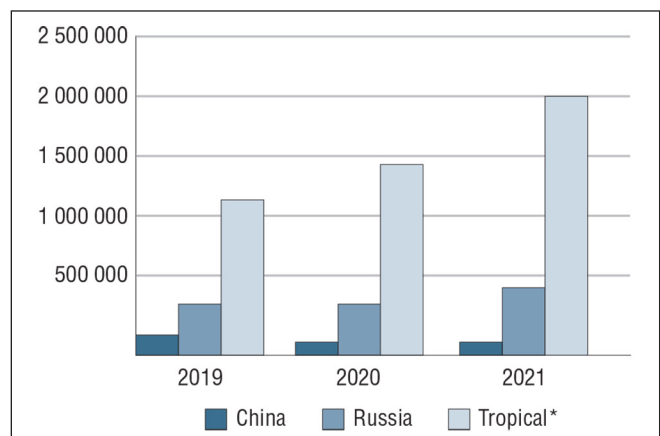
In early April, the US suspended its normal trade relations with Russia and Belarus, which meant import tariffs were then applied, with Russian birch plywood attracting a very high tariff. In March, imports of hardwood plywood from Russia had increased and were 16% up in the first quarter of 2022. In the same quarter, imports from Viet Nam more than doubled.

US hardwood plywood imports from tropical countries have grown sharply in recent years, along with imports of birch plywood from Russia. On the other hand, from over 100 000 m<sup>3</sup> a month in 2017, China’s plywood exports to the US were only about 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> per month in 2021 (Figure 1).

**Table 3: Japanese imports of logs and sawnwood from Russia 2017–2021**

Year	Imports (1 000 m <sup>3</sup> )	
	Logs	Sawnwood
2017	156	855
2018	124	860
2019	109	823
2020	49	816
2021	32	848

*Data source: Japan Lumber Reports*



*\*Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Ecuador  
Data source: US Census Bureau*

**Figure 1: US hardwood plywood imports from major suppliers in 2019–2021 (m<sup>3</sup>).**

<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/international-relations/restrictive-measures-sanctions/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/international-relations/restrictive-measures-sanctions/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine_en)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2022051600695/?cx\\_recs\\_click=true](https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2022051600695/?cx_recs_click=true)

The change in Russia’s trade status following its invasion of Ukraine seems not to be the end of the issue, as US congressional leaders have reportedly drafted legislation to ban imports of wood products from Russia and Belarus.<sup>3</sup>

**Addressing the shortages**

It is slowly becoming clearer how sanctions over Ukraine are affecting the global economy but ongoing disruptions in global supply chains and financial markets are already complicating the outlook. Freight costs, even before the war started, were 5–10 times their historical averages, driving up consumer prices and import costs across the board. As sanctions removed Russian commodity exports from world markets, prices were driven higher, putting pressure on import bills and public finances in net-commodity-importing emerging market and developing economies. Unsurprisingly, these are precisely the countries that have not joined the sanctions against Russia since they are most at risk of a balance of payments crisis if sanctions on Russian exports are tightened over an extended period.

Global timber markets are not immune from the direct and indirect impact of sanctions. Around 10–15 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood products, or just over 30% of the volume shipped from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in 2021, has been removed from markets in Europe and Asia (except China) because of sanctions. Europe, which imported 8.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of sawn softwood (around 10% of total consumption) from the three countries in 2021, will be the hardest hit.

<sup>3</sup><https://healthyforests.org/2022/03/conflict-shines-light-on-russian-wood-imports-to-u-s/>

European net exporters of sawnwood to the global market could make up for the deficit in Europe. But that may mean cutting shipments to other markets—a concern for sawn softwood importers in the US, which accounted for roughly 20% of EU sawn softwood exports in 2021. Supply shortages are already adding upward pressure on sawnwood prices in the US, where house-building costs have become so high that the government is introducing measures to stem the price surge.

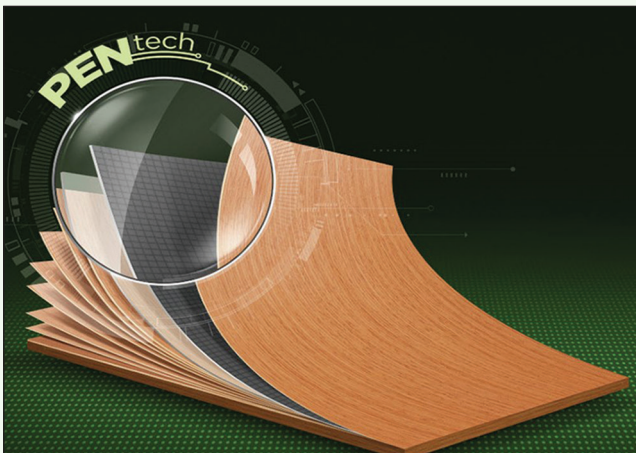
Chinese importers can still secure imports from Russia and Belarus. But because FSC and PEFC have stopped certifying timber from the two countries, they will not be able to export products manufactured from Russian and Belarussian “conflict timber” to Europe or other countries that recognize FSC and/or PEFC labels.

Japan is in a particularly precarious situation as it has to find alternatives to the huge volume of sawn softwood and veneer previously imported from Russia.

Volatile markets are not good for business, so a priority for the global timber sector must be to stabilize international markets by adjusting trade flows. It is here that tropical wood product producers could contribute.

Few tropical countries have the possibility to increase sawn softwood output to meet the structural specifications of importing countries. However, there are possibilities when it comes to demand for veneer and plywood. Producers in Southeast Asia, Latin America and West Africa produce plywood to international standards. If they can ramp up production for export they will contribute to stabilizing international trade in these products. □

**‘Green Platinum’ has 2x fire resistance**



**G**reenply Industries Ltd., one of India’s largest interior infrastructure brands with a comprehensive range of plywood, block boards, decorative veneers, flush doors and allied products, recently launched its new product, ‘Green Platinum’. The exquisite product portfolio will fall under Greenply’s E-0 range. The company introduced its plywood which is two times as effective in fire-resistant and water-proof properties as compared to other available plywood in its range.

The product comes with PEN Tech technology which adds a protective mesh between the layers, as well as on the surface of plywood, rendering it two times more resistant to fire. The technology helps the product to function as a barrier to restrict

the rapid spread of fire and helps to emit less smoke. Green Platinum is also enriched with an un-extended BWP resin, rendering it two times as boiling water-proof as compared to regular fire-resistant plywood.

Mr. Sanidhya Mittal, Joint Managing Director & CEO of Greenply Industries, said the company will be coming up with more such eco-friendly products, which will promote aesthetic living among the consumer base. Green Platinum plywood combines strength and health safety and is also certified by California Air Resource Board (CARB) for conforming to E-0 grade formaldehyde emission and an anti-bacterial and anti-viral coating to ensure the health and safety of every home.

The product comes with a 30-year warranty with 2x money-back assurance!

Greenply is the first in the wood and panel industry to have successfully acquired the forest management certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for its plantations in Tizit, Nagaland.

**Salient features**

- Manufactured through PEN Tech
- E-0 compliant
- Fire- and water-proof
- Un-extended BWP resin
- CARB Certified
- Borer- and fungus-proof
- Anti-termite guarantee. □

# Greenlam South Limited orders high-end particleboard plant from DIEFFENBACHER

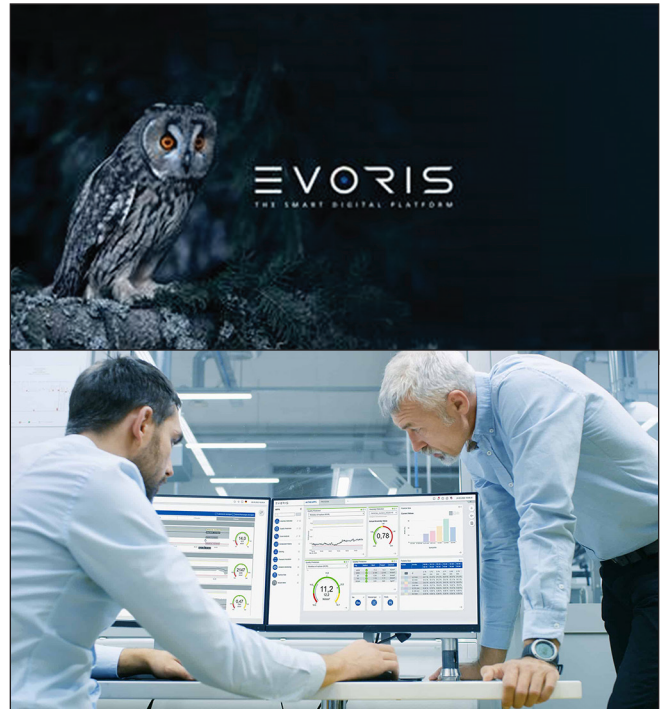
*New plant to be built in Andhra Pradesh, India, in 2023*

**G**reenlam South Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenlam Industries Limited headquartered in New Delhi, India, has ordered a high-end particleboard plant from DIEFFENBACHER for its new manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh. Commercial production of up to 265,000 m<sup>3</sup> of particleboard per year is expected by the fourth quarter of financial year 2023-24.

With more than 5,000 employees, a network of over 14,000 channel partners and a production capacity of 15.62 million sheets of HPL per annum, Greenlam is among the world's top three producers of laminates. Saurabh Mittal, Managing Director & CEO at Greenlam Industries, said, "Our new DIEFFENBACHER particleboard plant marks our third production unit in India and puts us on a path to becoming a leading wood-panel producer in India." Greenlam has 15 international offices and four international distribution centers from which it exports products to more than 100 countries.

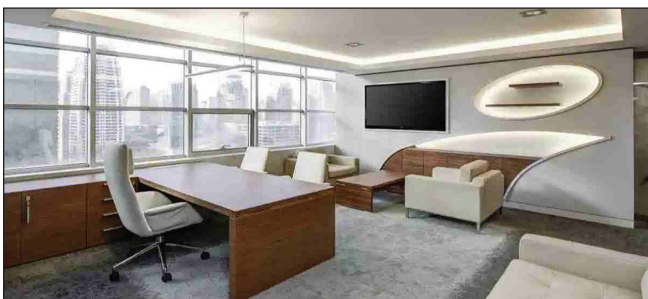
DIEFFENBACHER will supply the new plant's forming station and forming line with prepress, the CPS+ continuous press with press emission control system, the raw board handling system and the dryer. Also included are engineering, electrics and plant automation for the complete plant and the proven and highly flexible Lukki raw board storage system.

Greenlam's new high-end particleboard plant will feature EVORIS, DIEFFENBACHER's new digital platform. "EVORIS will help us to understand and control our plant in a better and easier manner," said UN Sarma, President - Manufacturing Chip Board & Engineering Services. "When DIEFFENBACHER introduced us to the EVORIS platform, we were immediately hooked. I strongly believe it is the future of wood-based panel production," he concluded.



"EVORIS is a real success story," stated Stefan Zipf, head of the Wood business unit at DIEFFENBACHER. "Since introducing the digital platform at LIGNA.Innovation Network in September 2021, we've received overwhelmingly positive feedback from customers and a large number of inquiries to implement EVORIS in new and existing plants. We are very happy that Greenlam South will be among the first companies to benefit from EVORIS." □

## Govt considering PLI scheme for furniture sector



**T**he government is considering a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for certain types of furniture to boost domestic manufacturing, and exports and create jobs in the sector, an official said. The proposal is at the discussion stage, the official added. The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel. The objective of the scheme is to make

domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to create global champions in manufacturing. Discussions are on for the PLI scheme for moulded furniture and toys, the official said. The toy industry has demanded an extension of the scheme for the sector as it would promote local manufacturing and create jobs.

Manu Gupta, promotor of Playgro Toys India, said the government's initiatives are helping the industry, but a National Toy Policy and Production Linked Incentive scheme would further support the growth of the sector. Talking about the furniture sector, Trade Promotion Council of India Chairman Mohit Singla said there is already established competitiveness in the moulded furniture sector, and the PLI scheme would be a thoughtful step in that direction. "Like we have industrial parks for the pharma sector, a similar move to develop a furniture cluster will give a fillip to the sector," Singla said. As per estimates, furniture export, at present, is about USD 400 million per year. Global furniture exports currently stand at USD 264 billion, and half of the market share is dominated by five countries – China, Germany, Poland, Italy and Vietnam. □

## Amulya Mica marks its presence at Matecia-2022, Delhi from 2 - 4 September 2022



With view to expand market of laminates & to cater the need of ‘Design Conscious’ national & international buyers, Purbanchal Laminates Pvt. Ltd, “Amulya Mica, is participated & exhibited the difference range of its products which is to fit in the life style of consumers , in Matecia- 2022, Delhi from 02-Sep-2022 to 04-Sep-2022 at Pragati Maidan New Delhi – an initiative from the house Bigsea Marcom, a unit of Surface Reporter & Ply Reporter.

The main objective for participation in Matecia was to showcase Amulya mica’s strength in various categories of laminates especially premium Imperial Collection ranges,

plywood & PVC Board and to exhibit new products like Exotic Veneer collection laminate & PVC Door Frame ‘Hygino’ – Healthy life style ka humsafar etc.

Amulya Mica stall inauguration was done by Ar. Ruby Singh of Archi Hives, New-Delhi. She appreciated the design style and Amulya Mica collection.

Amulya mica’s stall design was very vibrant where all products were showcased with a great amount of sophistication. The viewers response was good. Architects, contractors, End users were awed by the wide range of products showcased to enhance the look and feel of spaces. Some of the famous



personality visited the stall including Ar. Premnath of Premnath & Associates & Mr. Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director Century Ply. A lot of interest was generated which led to a lot of enquires

The Company's Managing Director Mr. Rakesh Agarwal along with wife Mrs. Mamta Agarwal, Director Marketing Ms. Shailja Agarwal & Director Mr. Abhishek Agarwal were present in the exhibition with their team Mr. Surendra Tharad, Mr. Rajgopal Pillai, Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, Mr. Ravi Gupta, Mr. Sourav Pandey & area sales team to greet the visitors. Ms. Shailja Agarwal presented company profile in front of jury panel and got appreciation with lots of applause. More than expected visitor visited our stall and appreciated the style of Amulya Mica. The Showcase was a Great SUCCESS!!!!

## Amulya Mica Circle



For CSR, Amulya Mica always believes that the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) is not just additional function of the business; rather it is ingrained in our core business operation. We always strive for environment sustainability by planting trees, cleanliness surrounding areas etc. Online of this drive, Amulya Mica had taken responsibility of development & beautification work of Varsana circle which is nearby the plant. The company has beautifully developed the

circle & also undertook responsibility to maintain a vehicular underpass of circle on Nation Highway under national Green Highway Mission. Now Varsana circle is lovingly called Amulyamica Circle. The Amulya Circle is inaugurated with LTILKLN National Highway Authority, Local MLA Smt. Malti Ben Maheshwari along with Mr. Abhishek Agarwal, Director Amulya Mica & team members.

# Hickory, red oak and white oak drive growth of U.S. hardwood lumber exports to India in the first half of 2022

*Total value of American hardwood lumber and veneer exported to India was USD 3.543 million in the first six months of this year*

Total exports of U.S. hardwood lumber and veneer to India for the first half of 2022 reached USD 3.543 million, according to the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the leading international trade association for the American hardwood industry. Statistics compiled from the latest data released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) revealed that U.S. hardwood lumber exports to India reached USD 2.728 million whilst U.S. hardwood veneer exports were valued at USD 815,000. Testament to the maturation of the market, there has been a continued and sustained shift from importing U.S. hardwood logs to importing kiln-dried lumber.

A closer look at the numbers reveal that total hardwood lumber shipped from the United States to India increased by 36 percent in value to USD 2.728 million (up from USD 2.004 million) and by 15 percent in volume to 3,791 cubic meters (up from 3,286 cubic meters). The top three American hardwood species exported were hickory (USD 1.245 million and 1,400m<sup>3</sup>), white oak (USD 647,000 and 944m<sup>3</sup>), and red oak (USD 572,000 and 966m<sup>3</sup>). A significant increase was also seen in exports of walnut, with the value and volume of shipments both increasing by 279 percent to reach USD 57,000 and 53m<sup>3</sup> respectively.

Limited domestic hardwood supplies, coupled with strong sustained growth in the retail furniture, handicraft and hospitality sectors have driven the demand for new species, making India an attractive and long-term prospective market for U.S. hardwoods. The first half numbers are in line with the new record high for U.S. hardwood exports to India achieved last year, which saw both the value and volume of hardwood lumber shipped to the country more than double the previous high set in 2019. AHEC expects demand for American hardwoods in India to continue to rise and is committed to servicing this growing demand.

“The biggest increase in the first half of this year was seen in red oak lumber exports to India, with both the value and volume of exports increasing by 174 percent and 180 percent respectively. American red oak is the dominant species in the



U.S. hardwood forests with its distinctive grain pattern and is suitable for a wide range of applications including furniture, flooring, doors, architectural joinery, mouldings and kitchen cabinets. Given that there is more red oak growing than is being harvested, it is promising to see India embrace the most sustainable and widely-available American hardwood species,” concluded Roderick Wiles, AHEC Regional Director. □

## Russia wants to expand imports from India in big way

*With surge in India’s purchase of Russian oil, Moscow can use the rupee balance to buy more and sustain Re-denominated trade to circumvent sanctions*

Russia has circulated a fresh list of products, including items such as medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, industrial equipment, garments, furniture and jewellery, that it wishes to import from India for a more balanced bilateral trade and a sustainable implementation of rupee-denominated payment mechanism, a person tracking the matter has said. “The latest list of request for cooperation from Russia, which has been circulated to export organisations, has a

total of 71 requests. The entries in the list are mostly enquiries from Russian companies for imports, but also include some items for possible exports. The wide variety of items—ranging from machinery, paper, textiles, leather and motor parts, to diagnostics and drugs—shows the country’s interest in trading in products beyond food and daily essentials to close the trade gap,” the source said. In the April-June 2022 period, India’s imports from Russia increased 369.29 per cent to \$9.26 billion,



while exports declined 37.82 per cent to \$435.62 million. The rise in imports was fuelled by a sharp increase in India’s purchase of crude oil from the Soviet nation after economic sanctions were imposed by the West on Moscow in response to its attack on Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Encouraged by steep discounts offered by Moscow, India imported an estimated \$7.9 billion worth of mineral oil, mineral fuel and their products during the period — an 800 per cent increase over the same period last year, per government data.

**Payment mechanism**

“Now that India and Russia are engaging to put in place a mechanism for rupee-denominated trade to bypass the West’s banking sanctions by avoiding payments in US dollar or the

euro, Russia is feeling the need to increase its imports from India. Buying more from India will allow the country to use the rupee balance that will accumulate in its accounts from India’s purchase of oil and defence equipment,” the source explained.

RBI has allowed a provision for investment of surplus rupee balance in government securities or infrastructure in India but it could be a more desirable option for Russia to use it to import items of its interest from India.

“This is a unique opportunity for India to increase its exports to Russia which were valued at \$3.2 billion in 2021-22 against imports worth \$9.86 billion. Since India’s imports from Russia have already crossed \$9 billion in the first quarter of 2022-23, the scope for stepping up exports in tandem with imports is immense,” the source said.

Russian companies that have put in requests for business with India also include some established firms that have been doing business with European countries for long but now have to stop due to the sanctions. For instance, Morena, which is one of the first refrigeration companies that appeared on the Russian market, has sought to start co-operation with a reliable manufacturer of compressor equipment in India.

“Morena used to co-operate with Tecumseh France but now cannot work with them anymore due to the policy of the two governments,” the entry stated. As part of economic sanctions imposed by the EU and the US, several Russian banks have been banned from using the SWIFT messaging system. Indian banks are engaging with Russian banks, many of which are not under sanctions, to implement the rupee payment mechanism. □

## Swiss Krono launches new soundproofing wall and ceiling wooden modules



Swiss Krono, a manufacturer of wood-based materials, has expanded its acoustically insulating wall and ceiling modules with the Magnumboard OSB. According to Swiss Krono, Magnumboard OSB is a solid timber product which can be used to create prefabricated construction modules characterised by good ecological footprints and optimal thermal insulation values.

Walls, ceilings and roof elements with high dimensional stability can be fashioned in sizes all the way up to 18m by 2.8m. They can then be used to make airtight building constructions with minimal joints. Acoustic insulation plays an important

role in blocks of flats. Varying noise levels can occur there both within and between individual units, for example as a result of playing children, practicing of musical instruments or barking dogs. This makes it all the more important to install good-quality insulation.

This timber construction system scores points not only with calculable fire protection, but also with good acoustic insulation, and also applies to “naked” boards without additional finishing. To ensure that they also effectively prevent sound transmission between adjacent terraced houses, Swiss Krono also requested ift Rosenheim to test corresponding party wall constructions.

As such, the Magnumboard OSB achieves ideal acoustic insulation levels with, among other things, its high bulk density of 640kg/m³. The wall and ceiling modules are designed to ensure optimal noise attenuation. For example, an appropriately designed module with 175mm-thick Magnumboard OSB has an airborne sound reduction coefficient of 73dB and a transmitted impact sound coefficient of 43dB.

With the Swiss Krono Planning tool, users can also identify components that comply with the building regulations of the German state in which the user is building. The requirements can be filtered in various ways depending on the fire and sound protection requirements in each case, allowing planners and architects to find the ideal solutions for their projects. □

## Furniture and Handicraft industry set strategy to face market downturn



Craftsmen finish making furniture in the Kelapa Dua area, Depok, West Java, Monday (23/8/2021). Data from the Indonesian Furniture and Handicraft Industry Association (Himki) stated that Indonesia's furniture and handicraft exports were recorded at US\$1.687 billion in the first semester of 2021, an increase of 35.41 percent compared to the same period in 2020. ANTARA FOTO/Asprilla Dwi Adha/wsj.

Furniture and handicraft industry players who are members of the Furniture and Handicraft Industry Association (Himki) set a strategy to deal with the current weakening market situation. "In order to offset the weakening demand from our main markets, namely the United States and Europe, we need to look for new alternative markets that also have great potential," said Chairman of the Presidium Himki Abdul Sobur in a statement in Jakarta,

Some of these potential markets include emerging market

countries, especially those in Asia such as China, India, and the Middle East. Sobur said Himki is also serious about working on the domestic market, which includes the mall to mall expo program which is being run by Himki DKI Jabodetabek.

Chairman of the DPD Himki DKI Jabodetabek Edmund Parengkuan said that his party was rolling out five excellent programs to advance the furniture and handicraft industries so that they could dominate the domestic market and export market.

"The five programs are first, the mall to mall expo program in collaboration with Sinergy Hub at Mall Alam Sutera BSD Tangerang and in collaboration with the DKI Jakarta Regional Government which is located in several malls in Jakarta," said Edmund. Second, a discount program for Himki members who participate in the Indonesia International Furniture Expo (IFEX) exhibition.

"As we all know, the IFEX exhibition is the largest furniture and craft exhibition in the Southeast Asia region. Given that this exhibition is very important, we provide discount incentives for members of Himki DKI Jabodetabek," said Edmund.

Third, the collaboration program with Jakpreneur, which is a platform established by the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government to accommodate creative and innovative communities so that they can advance micro, small, and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs). Fourth, create an electronic membership card, which can be used like an e-toll, where another advantage is the special discount for fellow Himki members.

Finally, organizational consolidation for organizational strengthening, where as an integral part of the central Himki, DKI Jabodetabek Himki always consolidates organizations to strengthen Himki organizations. □

## Chambers of Commerce of Belarus, India to cooperate in exchange trade

The Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) and the Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) headquartered in New Delhi plan to join forces to bring Indian companies to the Belarusian commodity exchange. Such an agreement was reached following the visit of the ICCI delegation led by ICCI Chairperson Dr. Ritika Yadav to the BUCE central office, BelTA learned from the BUCE press service.

The Indian delegation believes that the use of the commodity exchange platform will not only help boost trade between Belarus and India, but also create favorable conditions for closer cooperation in related areas.

ICCI has over 10,000 members across India. These are mainly small and medium-sized businesses operating in various industries and agriculture. They use ICCI services like market analytics, assistance in attracting investments, professional development courses, search for business partners in India and abroad. "Yet, our main task is to help businesses scale up their



operations, which usually involves entering the markets of other countries, including Belarus. Taking into account low risks, a wide product range and direct access to leading Belarusian enterprises, I believe that the exchange serves as an excellent

springboard to start operations in your country. For our part, we will try to bring companies from India and possibly from neighboring countries to your platform,” Dr.RitikaYadav noted.

First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange Eduard Belsky expressed his readiness to collaborate with ICCI in any areas, provided that such interaction would help increase exchange trade between Belarus and India.

“I would like our cooperation to be exclusively practical, I think you are also interested in this. Therefore, I suggest starting from specific commodity items that are in demand in Belarus and India and jointly bring sellers and buyers from the two countries to the exchange platform. For example, we know that Belarusian acrylic fiber and other products of the petrochemical

industry are in high demand in India, since these commodities are regularly traded through our platform. Sawn timber, dairy products, light industry products hold a lot of promise, too. Our main task is to convey this information to as many Indian businesses as possible, and in this we count on your support,” Eduard Belsky emphasized.

Founded in 2004, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange conducted its first trading session in June 2005. BUCE is one of the largest commodity exchanges in Eastern Europe. Its main function is to assist Belarusian enterprises with export and foreign companies with entering the Belarusian market. BUCE sells a wide range of metal, forestry, and agricultural products, industrial and consumer goods.□

## **New lignin-based adhesive developed by university to replace formaldehyde adhesives**

**A**ccording to Science X, researchers at Aalto University have developed a bio-based adhesive that can replace formaldehyde-containing adhesives in wood construction. The main raw material in the new adhesive is lignin, a structural component of wood and a by-product of the pulp industry that is usually burned after wood is processed. As an alternative to formaldehyde, lignin offers a healthier and more carbon-friendly way to use wood in construction.

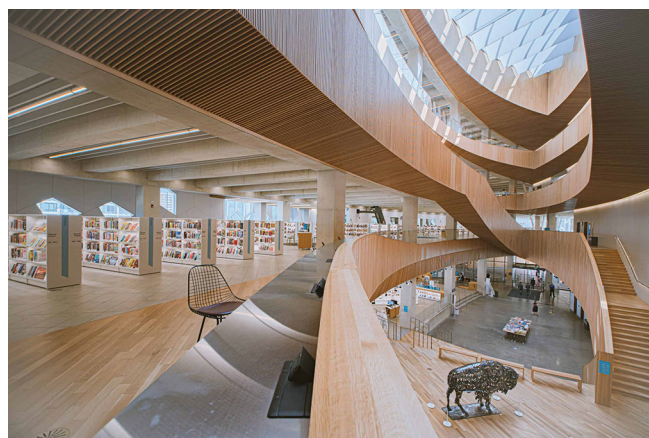
Although timber construction has been touted as an environmentally friendlier method of construction as compared to using concrete or steel, the adhesives used to bond wood panels still contain formaldehyde, which can be harmful.

Instead, lignin, which comes from wood itself, binds cellulose and hemicellulose together and gives wood its tough, strong structure.

Previously, chemical-intensive pre-treatments have been necessary to use lignin in adhesives. The adhesive developed by Aalto University researchers can use purified kraft lignin and the chemical reaction to make the adhesive takes a few minutes instead of up to 10 hours.

Science X reports that no additional heating of the raw material is needed, which reduces energy consumption. The only by-products of the process are salt and sodium hydroxide, or lye.

“Using lignin as a material can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase the processing value of forests. This is why research on lignin is an important priority for us at Aalto



University,” said Monika Österberg, professor at the Aalto University School of Chemical Engineering. The lignin content of previous adhesives has been relatively low, around 20-50%, while the new Aalto University innovation has a lignin content of over 90%. The adhesive is strong and non-toxic, and protects surfaces from fire, so it can even be used as a flame retardant.

According to the researchers, lignin can also be used as a raw material for applications such as coatings and composites. Research work will continue in the laboratory, and various commercialisation opportunities are likely to be explored in collaboration with LignoSphere, a spin-off from Aalto University.□

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## **“INDIAN WOOD & ALLIED PANELS” Quarterly Journal - FIPPI**

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# Antibacterial Laminate Market is Booming in the Hospitality and Educational Sectors

The hospitality industry requires quite a sturdy flooring design due to the frequent foot traffic. Antibacterial properties are vitally essential and crucial since decorative laminates are regularly used on kitchen countertops, cupboards, and tabletops where they may encounter food products and young children. When a germ encounters the antibacterial laminate, its chemicals break down the bacterium's cell wall, stopping it from multiplying. Anti-bacterial laminates that reduce the number of germs on a surface by up to 99.99 percent and provide antibacterial and anti-fungal protection

Schools are an ideal breeding ground for bacteria and germs. Bacteria can easily pass from one child to another. We all know that you can do all you can to keep cleaning a surface, but it only takes one grab of the handle, push of the door or touch of the screen in high traffic areas to replace germs back on those surfaces. With the number of children in schools there are so many areas which will be touched hundreds of times in a day and it's impossible to ensure children are washing hands continuously!

### How it works?

Application sanitary flooring solutions like LVT and hardwood as all types of people are anticipated in the hospital and sanitation is a top priority are just a few crucial factors before picking the proper materials.

The development of technology has had a significant impact on flooring categories over time, resulting in improvised design advances. Innovative laminate solutions are being purchased by



consumers nationwide to improve the aesthetic and practical aspects of their environments. Modern areas benefit greatly from anti-bacterial laminate since it makes cleaning easier and creates a more sanitary living environment. Anti-bacterial laminates offer the highest level of safety without sacrificing appearance, whether they are put in homes or offices.

Modern installation techniques for wooden floors allow for significant time savings during building, and if the proper product is used, they are also simple to maintain and restore. A regular laminate can become an antibacterial laminate during the final resin bath of the impregnation process. □

## Amulya Mica won 9th CSR India Award 2022 from Greentech Foundation, New-Delhi



Purbanchal Laminates Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded with 9th CSR India Award-2022 from Greentech Foundation Delhi. It is NGO and working for promoting of education, training, research, safety at work place, environment protection & climate change.

Ms. Shailja Agarwal, Director-Marketing Amulya Mica

has received the award on 24-08-22 from Mr. Kamaleshwar Sharan, Chairman & CEO of GreenTech Foundation and Mr. Laxmanan S. (IAS), Industry & Commerce Secretary – Govt. of Assam at Hotel Vivanta by Taj Guwahati in midst Assam Govt. Ministers, Padma Shri recipient Mr. Jadav Payeng, popularly known as the Forest Man of India and big corporates both public & private like ONGC, Kirloskar etc. Speaking on this great achievement, Mr. Rakesh Agarwal assures to do continue work toward the social upliftment of society and for Tree plantation. The Company firmly believes that Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) is not just an additional function of the business; rather it is ingrained in our core business operation. Further he informed that we have already planted 1 lacs trees sapling in different places of India and will continue to plant more & more – a small initiative to make mother earth Green for our Generation as well as for GEN-Next.

Further Mr. Agarwal expresses his thanks and gratitude to all associates, team members and all channel partners who has made Amulya mica a quality and trusted brand. □



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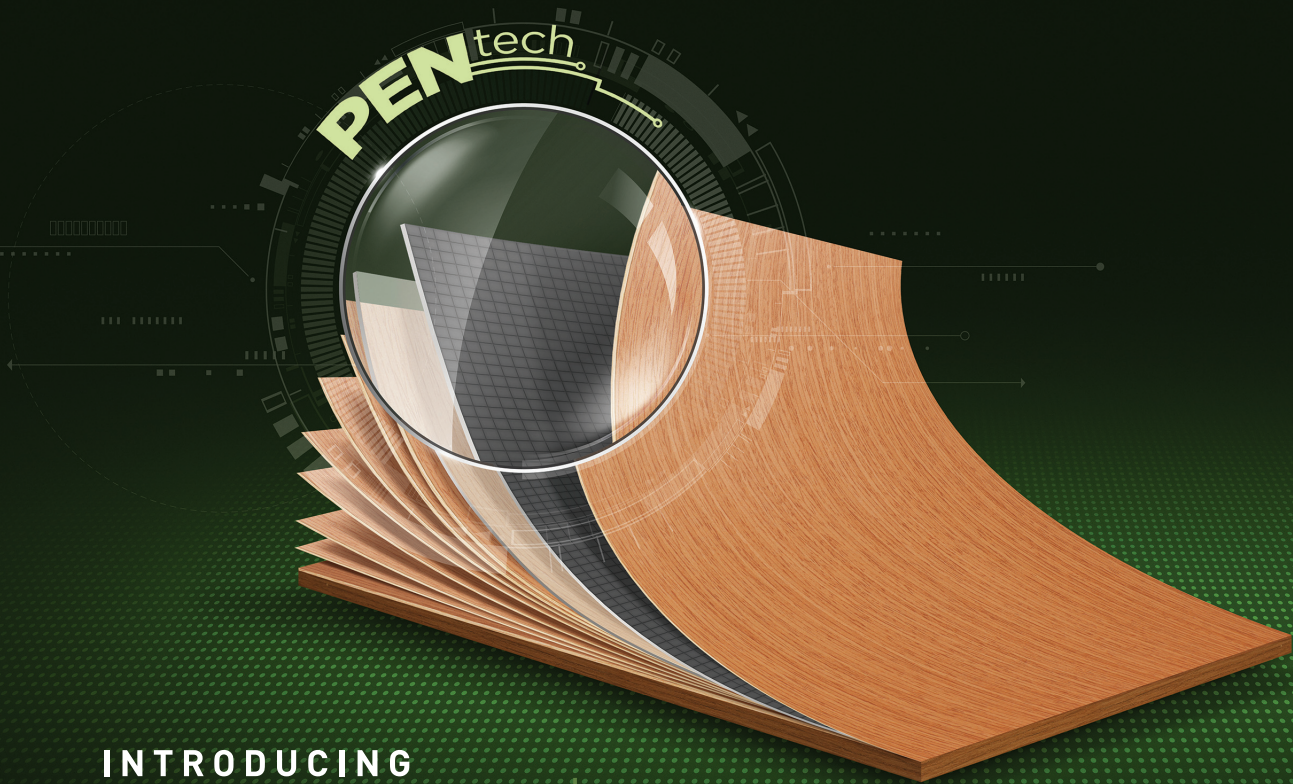
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**2X** FIRE RESISTANT  
WATER PROOF  
MONEY BACK WARRANTY

**Green Platinum** is two times as effective as other available plywood in its range. It comes with **PEN Tech**, which adds a protective mesh between the layers as well as on the surface of plywood, rendering it **two times more fire resistant**. Enriched with un-extended BWP resin, Green Platinum is **two times as boiling water proof** as regular fire resistant plywood. All these features now come with **2X money back warranty**, making Green Platinum the perfect choice for your interiors!



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