



Status of Poplar and Willow Culture in Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract: Poplars and willows are ecologically and economically important arboreal species for Himachal Himalayas. These are among a few tree species, which have been grown by the farmers especially in the cold arid region since ages for the tree based needs and by the foresters in their normal forestry programmes. Willow culture is restricted to upper hills especially inner Himalayas and that of poplar to outer Himalayas especially south of the Himalayan foot hills. Of late, poplars have attained a status of cash crop, which are grown in parts of some districts for sale to the wood based industry located within and outside the state. Back-end and front-end synergies in nursery-plantation-wood usage chain are now well established for poplar culture, whereas, similar synergies are lacking for willow culture. Willow has a specific use for making cricket bats for which there is no local wood processing industry. The paper gives an account of the existing practices in nursery and plantation management and marketing of wood for these species.

Key Words: Poplar, willow, status, culture, plantations, management
