

VETIVERIM

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Pacific Rim Vetiver Network

Number 70

ISSN 0859 – 8878

October 2014

Editor: Narong Chomchalow
Asst.Editor: Samran Sombatpanit
Advisors: Sumet Tantivejkul
Manoon Mookpradit
Chalermkiat Sanviset
John Greenfield

Country Representatives:

Australia Paul N.V. Truong
Brunei Nur Judy Abdullah
Cambodia Hong Tuon Van
China Liyu Xu
Cook Islands William Wigmore
Fiji Jai Gawander
Guam Mohammad Golabi
Indonesia David Booth
Japan Tsutomu Fujihara
Lao PDR Boonkong Sengthavon
Malaysia P.K. Yoon
New Caledoni Georges Donskoff
New Zealand Don Miller
Papua New Guinea Rob Shelton
Philippines Edwin A. Balbarino
Samoa Walter Vermullen
Taiwan Y ue-Wen Wang
Thailand Weerachai Nanakorn
Tonga Siosuia Halavatau
Vanuatu Henry Kathecau
Vietnam Tran Tan Van

Publisher:

Office of the Royal Development
Projects Board (ORDPB)
2032 Arun Amarin 36,
Bang Yi Khan, Bang Plat,
Bangkok 10700, Thailand
Tel.: (66-2) 447 8500
Fax: (66-2) 447 8543
E-mails: rdpb_foreign@yahoo.
com

Homepage: <http://prvn.rdpb.go.th>
Editor's E-mail: narongchc@au.edu

Editorial

Ecotype vs Variety of Vetiver

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, ...”an ecotype is a population of a species that survives as a distinct group through environmental selection and isolation and that is comparable with a taxonomic subspecies...”.

A (botanical) variety is a group of individuals or plants having similar traits that can be reproduced "true to type" from generation to generation. For cultivated plants, a special term is used, i.e. “cultivated variety” and is abbreviated as “cultivar” that has the same meaning as “variety”, except that it designates specifically plants selected by mankind. A cultivar is an assemblage of plant that (a) has been selected for a particular character or a combination of characters; (b) is distinct, uniform and stable in these characters and (c) when propagated with appropriate means, retains those characters.

Vetiver used in soil and water conservation consists of two species, (i) *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (syn. *Vetiveria zizanioides*) or wetland vetiver and (ii) *C. neomoralis* (syn. *Vetiveria nemoralis*) or upland vetiver. The former has been used extensively while the latter is mainly used in Thailand as it is native to the country. Many varietal names have been given to wetland vetiver internationally, such as Sun Shine, Monto, Fiji, etc. In Thailand, many clones of vetiver have been introduced and the names of the country / state, ‘Sri Lanka’, ‘Indonesia’, ‘Karnataka’ have been used as the name of the varieties. A number of accessions have also been collected from various sites throughout the country by the Land Development Department and temporarily designated the names of the place where it was collected as the name of the “ecotype”, the term used temporarily until further studies have been made with respect to their performance and ultimate selection or rejection.

A total of 28 ecotypes have been collected and studied with respects to their morphological and physiological characters, together with their DNA finger printings. It was found that all 28 ecotypes have distinct DNA patterns such that their identities can now be termed as cultivars to avoid confusion. Thus from now on the term “ecotype” will be replaced by “variety” or “cultivar” to be on a par with the rest of vetiver.

