

Abstract for the BioAsie Program Meeting
'Extraction, characterization and optimization of bio-molecules from by-products of the Asian timber'
25th to 27th April, 2017
Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France

**DOMESTICATION OF THE ENDANGERED *AQUILARIA* TREE SPECIES IN MALAYSIA FOR
AGARWOOD PRODUCTION**

**25 avril 2017, 11h00
Faculté des Sciences et Technologie,
Salle de réunion du LERMAB,
entrée 4A, 3eme étage**

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Aquilaria species produce agarwood, a non-wood forest product, which has reached commercial importance in the international trade. Agarwood is pursued by the pharmaceutical and fragrance industries because it is rich in complex compounds. High demand and low supply of agarwood is threatening natural populations of *Aquilaria*. About 20 *Aquilaria* species are distributed in the Indomalesian region and Malaysia is home to five, all vulnerable and one even critically endangered. The history of agarwood cultivation in Malaysia started in the 1990s when *Aquilaria malaccensis* was first listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). With this listing, planters anticipated that trading agarwood originated from natural resources would one day be prohibited. Planting *Aquilaria* in agricultural estates seems to be a practical approach to provide sustainable yield of agarwood. For domestication to be successful, it is imperative that the planted trees form agarwood; this is the major obstacle in agarwood production on large scale. Its production exploits the natural synergies between the tree host, microbes and environment, resulting in agarwood of inconsistent quality. Therefore, a successful intensive agarwood cultivation is important to meet current and future needs of the people while conserving wild natural resources.

