

Preface

Wood, with its unparalleled versatility, is a fabulous gift of nature. Having a wide range of applications, it has played an important role in the progress of human civilization. Greater technological innovations may further render wood as the single most important natural resource in the times to come. In the current scenario of global climate change, unlike any other non-renewable material, wood can be sustainably produced, processed, and converted into a range of products with the least of carbon footprints. Wood is Good.

Wood is a highly variable and complex material. The inherent variability in wood between species, within a species, and also within a tree poses challenges in its processing and utilization. Short-rotation plantation-grown timber has been further added to this challenge. In this backdrop, the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru, India, organized an international conference on “Wood is Good: Current Trends and Future Prospects in Wood Utilization” on November 21–23, 2014.

The Institute of Wood Science and Technology is a premier research institute under the aegis of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. With a specialized team of scientists, the institute has been carrying out frontier research in wood identification, processing, wood composites, wood modification, wood energy, wood quality, and tree improvement. The conference provided a platform to academicians, researchers, and industry professionals across the globe to present and discuss the recent innovations, trends, and future prospects. More than 100 research papers covering a wide range of topics were deliberated in the conference.

This book is a collection of selected papers presented during the conference. The papers are grouped in five major themes, namely wood properties and variability, wood protection, wood-based composites, wood utilization pattern, and wood and climate change.

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Wood is Good

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