

# **CONSISTENT APPROACH TO SELECT SUITABLE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT FOR TREE FELLING OF MAHOGANY OR MAHOGANY/ JAK MIXED PLANTATION**

## **Introduction**

Section 12 of the forest ordinance introduced to the legislature of Sri Lanka in 1907, specifically states, that this was introduced with the prime objective of developing the Timber Industry. In the year of 1980 the policy makers concentrated more on participating the rural community in launching Tree Planting Campaigns, in order to fully fill this objective. After 1994, the prevailing National Forest Policy (NFP, 1995) stressed the needs of Multiple-use of forest management. This concept expressed that the forest should be managed with the intention of productive, protective, climatic, wildlife, recreational and bio-aesthetic views. The silvicultural practices are the most important aspect in connection with the forest management.

In view of the above, it has become increasingly necessary to have effective control over Forest Management. Further the fact remains that the forests are widely spread over the island not only supplying timber for household needs, but also catering to other household needs of the segments of the community who live in close proximity. It is a fact that it could be obtained by practicing the concept of multiple-use of forestry through community participation. The Mahogany and mahogany/jak mixed plantations are concerned, the various systems of management were introduced with regard to tree felling.

Considering these contemporary needs, physical and social environment of the plantation and its managerial issues; it was decided to select Dawatagolla Forest Plantation (DFP) as a study area. It is situated at Alawwa in Kurunegala District which covers an area of 30 hectares (ha), containing mainly Jack (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) divided into Jak Working Circle (JWC) and Timber Working Circle (TWC).

The silvicultural management practices such as thinning, pruning, weeding, regeneration etc. are not being carried out to maintain this forest in right level. In the year 2000, the selective felling were done in the TWC by the State Timber Cooperation. Due to the careless and late felling, the trees were damaged including young trees and saplings and the 50% out of 981 trees were not brought real economic value. After that, no steps were taken to provide silvicultural treatment regarding the residues and patches lying in the forest. It is therefore advisable to set up a work plan for implementing silvicultural practices through **“consistent approach”**.