



- ### Status, Prevalence and Distribution of agarwood
- Natural habitats
 - 2341 plants
 - Plantations
 - 2487 plants
 - Research plots
 - 116 plants
 - Nurseries
 - 15000+
 - Home gardens
 - 2443 plants
 - report in 2009 estimated a population of 7387 excluding the seedlings in nurseries.

- ### Agarwood research in bhutan
-
- Research plantations carried out in potential agarwood growing areas
 - In 2001, six agarwood trees were inoculated for inducing agar formation.
 - 2 meter treated section of 15 cm diameter bole produced about 500 gm of agar.
 - 2004-New trail set for 6 agarwood trees(2 control and 4 treated with improved stimulants) –result not evaluated.

- ### Agar wood trade
- Illegal or informal and formal trade occurred in the past.
 - Under the current legislation, Agar wood is a schedule I species and legally protected. All wild plants listed in Schedule I are declared to be totally protected, whether or not in a Government Reserved Forests and cannot not collected or taken without formal approval of the government.
 - Trade in any form of agar wood is strictly prohibited by law.

- ### scope
- Agar wood for income generation and poverty alleviation.
 - Good genetic resources available in the natural forests.
 - Opportunity to augment the existing agarwood plant resources through social, community and private forestry and strict conservation of remaining Aquilaria trees, both planted and natural forest base to ensure sustainable production.
 - The land act 2007 allows any individual or company/firm in bhutan to lease government land which gives ample opportunity/room for raising commercial plantation at a larger scale on leased government land.
- What needs to be done? –**
1. *The actual population of agarwood needs to be verified.*
 2. *Determine sustainable harvesting level.*
 3. *Proper market study needs to be carried out*
 4. *re-formulate legal instruments to promote agar wood plantation on private land, leased Government land and community forestry land*
 5. *Promote better research on the species -do we always BUY techniques and import methods of inoculation from other countries.*

- ### Threats and challenges
- Loss of natural habitats
 - Use of agar wood as incense and in medicines.
 - Uprooting of sapling for domestication
 - Wounding of plants by locals in expectation of infecting the plant for agar formation.
 - Defoliation of agar wood trees.
 - Lack of technical expertise.