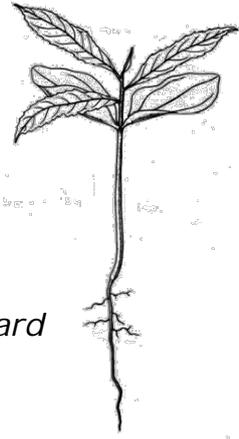


Leonard Co Award for Best Native Forest Tree Nursery



Background:

In recognition of his passion and contribution to forest restoration using native species in the Philippines, the Rain Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI) is establishing the *Leonard Co Award for the Best Native Forest Tree Nursery* in the country.

With the increasing awareness of the value of native flora, national and local reforestation initiatives have shifted their approach to integrate more indigenous tree species that are both economically and ecologically important. However, one of the current challenges is ensuring the adequate supply of high-quality seedlings of these tree species.

Objectives:

The award aims to:

1. Recognise forest tree nurseries all over the country that grow quality native species for their own reforestation efforts and/or for commercial production and supply in their areas.
2. Encourage excellence in nursery production and management for organizations and institutions with existing nurseries, and encourage others to get involved in such initiatives.
3. Promote the exchange of best nursery practices.
4. Provide a platform for networking and marketing for nursery operators.

The top 3 nurseries will be honoured during the 1st International Symposium of the Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Inc. (PNPCSI) in November 2011.

Qualifications:

1. Must cultivate exclusively native (to the area) forest tree species
2. Open to PO-, NGO-, and LGU- owned and operated nurseries
3. Should have a certificate of registration for the nursery
4. Must have been established at least within the last 3 years, preferably in operation for at least 2 years, i.e., with records to prove it (books of sales, nursery production log, etc.)
5. Propagules (seeds and seedlings) must be legally sourced especially if from a Protected Area, e.g. with certification or collection permit issued by PASU, PAMB, or DENR of the protected area or forest reserve where propagules were collected.

Criteria:

1. Diversity of species of native forest trees cultivated
2. Seedling production capacity (no. of seedling per area per year)
3. Seedling quality (shoot form, root form, vigour, pathogen- and pest-free, *etc.*)
4. Organically grown (no synthetic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides)
5. Infrastructure development (eg. compost shed, potting area, germination area, hardening area, elevated seed bed, recovery chamber, *etc.*)
6. Incorporation of indigenous knowledge or innovative systems and practices
7. Number of nursery personnel (eg. PO members participating in nursery operations through labor equity, volunteers, or hired/paid personnel)

Application Form (please see separate Application Form)

Application Process:

Interested parties should submit a completed application form with required certifications and records, and photographs showing the nursery infrastructure and seedlings **on or before October 14, 2011** to:

The RFRI Secretariat
c/o Dr. Edwino Fernando
Dept. of Forest Biological Sciences
College of Forestry and Natural Resources
University of the Philippines Los Baños
College, 4031 Laguna

The top 3 entries will be audited by a RFRI Team after notification. The top 3 will be sponsored to attend the PNPCSI Symposium on November 19-20 at the National Museum in Manila by RFRI, where they will be awarded with a plaque of recognition. The *Best Native Forest Tree Nursery* will also receive Php100,000 in cash.



www.rainforestation.ph