Gmelina arborea is native to India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, southern China, Laos, Cambodia, and Sumatra in Indonesia. The species was introduced into many tropical countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Brazil, Gambia, Costa Rica, Burgina Faso, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Malawi (National Academy of Sciences 1980, Soerianegara and Lammens 1994).

Gmelina arborea is a fast-growing, deciduous tree that can grow up to 30 m in height and over 80 cm d.b.h. The tree usually grows to about 20 m with a clear bole of 6 to 9 m and a high taper. The species is moderately adaptable and survives well on a wide range of soil types: acid soils, calcareous loams, and lateritic soils. It performs best on fresh, well-drained, fertile soils where rainfall annually varies from 1200 to 4500 mm, temperatures range from 12 to 45 °C, and elevations range from sea level to 1000 m (Lamb 1968, National Academy of Sciences 1980, Smitinand and others 1975, Soerianegara and Lammens 1994).

Gmelina arborea wood is relatively light with a density of 420 to 640 kg per m³ and a calorific value of about 4800 kcal per kg (National Academy of Science 1980). The straw-colored wood is one of the best utility timbers of the tropics, where it is used in light construction, general carpentry, packaging, furniture, particle board, plywood, and matches. The wood produces average yields of paper with properties superior to those from most hardwood pulps. Its leaves can be used as fodder, and its flowers produce abundant nectar from which high-quality honey is produced (National Academy of Sciences 1980, Smitinand and others 1975, Soerianegara and Lammens 1994).

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are ready for rooted-cutting production when they are about 60 days old. A section of half-leaf single node is commonly used for rooting with or without rooting hormone. However, treatment with rooting hormone may induce earlier and more vigorous rooting than no treatment (Hijoyo 1993). Gmelina arborea cuttings root well when the relative humidity is above 80 percent and the temperature is lower than 30 °C.