

COFORD Forestry and Wood Update

March, 2002 Volume 2 Issue 3

## Editor: Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager

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# COFORD Connects

During February the COFORD Technology Transfer drive gained momentum with the circulation of our COFORD Connects series of practice notes to all ITGA and IFA Farm Foresters members. Over 2,000 copies of this folder and its contents have now been distributed since its launch. The following additional notes are being prepared at present, and will be forwarded to all COFORD Connects subscribers as they are published:

1. Wood as a renewable energy source
2. General Principles of Timber Usage
3. Timber – the environment evidence to support greater usage
4. Considering fire risk when specifying timber
5. Enhancing the durability of timber
6. Introduction to engineered timber products
7. Energy Efficiency of Timber Frame Housing

Many of these practice notes will also be carried in architectural and engineering journals.

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# 2. COFORD Annual Report 2001

The COFORD 2001 Annual Report was launched in Dublin on February 28th. Over the coming weeks 4,000 copies of this comprehensive publication will be circulated. The report details all projects currently being funded by COFORD.

It will also be made available to download from our website at: <http://www.coford.ie/reports/acrobat-pdfs/coford_annual_report_2001.pdf>

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# 3. Innovation in Wood Products workshop

COFORD and The Scottish Forest Industry Cluster have identified the importance of innovation in expanding markets for homegrown timber. To address this issue, both organisations are hosting a workshop on Innovation in Wood Products and Processes. The workshop will be held in **Dublin on** **April 29th** and Edinburgh on April 30th.

This **'Conceptualisation to Commercialisation'** workshop will cover topics such as funding and support available to foster innovation, the accreditation process, and - through a series of case studies presented by industry leaders from throughout Europe - details on how other new products and processes have been successfully commercialised recently. These case studies (which it is envisaged will cover I-beams, Parallam, LVL, Polymer-fibre composites, New Age Flitch Beams, timber preservation techniques and softwood joinery) will outline:

* how new market opportunities and suitable partners were identified,
* what testing was needed to satisfy Agrément Boards and Standards’ Authorities,
* how intellectual property rights are protected,
* how the new process/product was integrated into existing businesses,
* what pitfalls were encountered and how they were overcome, and
* how the market was developed/supported.

The workshop is aimed at the processing sector, the timber trade, professionals and research/testing service providers. However, it will also be of interest to timber growers and forester who are keen to learn more about new opportunities for wood and wood products. Further details will be circulated as soon as the panel of speakers is finalised.

Enquiries for the Dublin workshop (29.4.02) should be directed to:

Mr Joe O'Carroll, Operations Manager, COFORD, Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4.

T: 00 353 1 7167700;

E: admin@coford.ie

Enquiries for the Edinburgh workshop (30.4.02) should be directed to:

Ms Catriona Prebble, Scottish Forest Industries Cluster, FIDC, 53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT, Scotland;

T: 00 44 (0) 131 220 9292;

E: scotcluster@fidc.org.uk

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# 4. Request for Tender

COFORD is now seeking tenders from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to carry out a review of small-scale harvesting systems in use throughout Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

With a high proportion of the private forest estate in isolated blocks of less than 10 hectares, doubts have been raised over the economic viability of thinning and harvesting such plantations using conventional machinery. This desk study will involve a review of all harvesting systems in operation in a range of countries, tailored to small-scale forestry.

Each system should be assessed in terms of its applicability to the Irish forest industry. In particular, site type, ownership structure, species composition and forest owner skill sets will have an impact on system selection. A decision support tool will be developed as part of the desk study to guide owners’ decisions when selecting from a suite of possible systems. The pros and cons of each system will have to be clearly outlined to help inform the decision.

Interested parties should contact Joe O’Carroll at the number below for further information. Applications must be received on, or before, **March 27th.** In is envisaged that the study will not take more than 4 months to complete. Some foreign travel will be necessary. Applications should have an industry partner to ensure that any recommendations/analysis made take full account of all practical issues.

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# 5. ECE/FAO Forest Products Markets 2001 and Prospects for 2002

The ECE/FAO Timber Committee has just published their review of 2001 and prospects for 2002. The document is available for download on the Timber Committee website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

The report begins with a statement by the committee that covers:

* Economic background
* Certified Forest Products
* Sawn Softwood
* Sawn Hardwood
* Wood-based Panels
* Pulp, Paper and Paperboard
* Wood Raw Materials

The report shows the following consumption patterns for Ireland, Europe (All European states, not just EU15) and North America (USA and Canada). The figures for 2002 are projections.

Sawn Softwood:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 1,145 | 1,225 | 1,270 |
| Europe | 90,653 | 86,707 | 88,092 |
| N America | 147,601 | 146,647 | 146,521 |

Sawn Temperate Hardwood:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 48 | 42 | 43 |
| Europe | 15,376 | 14,931 | 15,324 |
| N America | 35,946 | 36,217 | 36,218 |

Sawn Tropical Hardwood:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 103 | 101 | 100 |
| Europe | 2,942 | 2,774 | 2,746 |
| N America | 671 | 673 | 676 |

Plywood:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 122 | 118 | 118 |
| Europe | 6,890 | 6,530 | 6,599 |
| N America | 20,388 | 20,506 | 20,102 |

OSB:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 97 | 97 | 97 |
| Europe | 1,456 | 1,922 | 2,266 |
| N America | 18,157 | 18,751 | 19,233 |

MDF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 86 | 86 | 86 |
| Europe | 8,713 | 8,539 | 8,456 |
| N America | 4,489 | 3,840 | 4,119 |

Chipboard:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘000 m³ |
| **Year:** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** |
| Ireland | 84 | 44 | 44 |
| Europe | 35,015 | 34,164 | 34,098 |
| N America | 11,650 | 11,788 | 11,815 |

These figures indicate that, in general, consumption of wood products is projected to remain at 2000 levels. The one exception to this trend is the European consumption of OSB, which is projected to rise to 2.3 million m³ in 2002, up 55% from 2000 consumption levels.

It is also interesting to note that Ireland accounts for a mere 1.26% of European sawn softwood consumption.

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# 6. IFIC Annual Review

The Irish Forest Industry Chain is an organisation that brings together all sectors of the forest industry from nursery to processing and from forest management to education and research under one umbrella grouping.

The current members of IFIC are:

* COFORD
* Coillte
* Enterprise Ireland
* Green Belt Ltd
* Irish Christmas Tree Growers Association
* Irish Forest Nursery Association
* Irish Forestry Contractors Association
* Irish Forestry Unit Trust
* Irish Timber Council
* Irish Timber Growers Association
* Louisiana-Pacific-Europe
* Masonite Ireland
* National Co-Operative Farm Relief Services
* None-so-Hardy Limited
* Society of Irish Foresters
* Western Forestry Co-Operative Society
* Willamette Europe Limited

IFIC Council Meetings are held six times a year and afford the industry opportunities to discuss generic problems facing the industry.

Minister Hugh Byrne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, launched the IFIC Annual Review in December 2001. The review outlines some of the extensive work conducted by IFIC on behalf of members and is available by writing to:

IFIC

Confederation House

84 - 86 Lower Baggot St

Dublin 2

Alternatively those requesting a copy of the review can email IFIC@ibec.ie or phone telephone Ms Elva Duggan at 01-605 1674.

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# 7. EU SAVE-Altener Programmes – Parallel Call for Proposals

Proposals for the EU SAVE-ALTENER programme on the promotion of energy efficiency/rational use of energy (RUE) and renewable energy sources (RES) in the European Community are being sought by the European Commission. There is a total of €23 million (SAVE €7.4 million. ALTENER €15.5 million) available for projects under the four main Measures:

**Measure A.1** **– Integrated actions:** includes the development, promotion and monitoring of progress on integrated policies, regulations and legislation to provide favourable market frameworks for both RES and RUE.

**Measure A.2 – Replication of good practice:** may include promotional campaigns and/or training activities; should focus on priority themes specified in the work programme; and, should lead to a substantial impact and visibility in the EU, EEA and/or candidate countries.

**Measure A.3 – Specific action**: aiming to achieve the goals identified in the EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency of the White paper on RES. Priority will be given to proposals which address the themes listed in the work programme.

**Measure A.4 – Local and regional level actions**:

On energy efficiency (SAVE):

A.4.1 – should aim to create local and regional energy management agencies in the candidate countries

A.4.2 – should aim to create new local energy management agencies in the EU and EEA, where there is a particular need for local energy services in RUE and RES.

On renewable energy sources (Altener):

A.4.3 – should aim to support activities aimed at dispersed local end-users (citizens, consumers, SMEs, architects) and be designed to support the use of RES and energy efficiency measures in a specific locality or region of the EU or EEA.

The first deadline for proposals to be submitted to the Commission is 12:00 on 3 April 2002.

Before contacting the Commission, proposers are strongly advised to consult the original call text in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ) No C 006 of 9.1.2002, pp.12-14. This may be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2002/c_00620020109en00130014.pdf>.

For further information on SAVE contact:

Mr Ronan Harbison, European Commission, DG Energy and Transport – ronan.harbison@cec.eu.int

For more information on Altener contact:

Mr Francisco Lasa-Algeria, European Commission, DG Energy and Transport – [francisco.Lasa-Algeria@cec.eu.int](francisco.Lasa-Algeria%40cec.eu.int)

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# 8. Consultation on Proposed Renewable Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Programme Strategy

The Irish Energy Centre promotes and assists environmentally and economically sustainable, production, supply and use of energy in Ireland.

The National Development Plan has made provision for funding of Euro 222 million to support, through the Centre, the implementation of the Government’s sustainable energy policy.

One significant element under the policy is support amounting to Euro16.25 million [£12.8 million] for research, development and demonstration on Renewable sources of Energy and related topics. A draft strategy setting proposed objectives, content, and priorities for a support programme is available for download at http://www.irish-energy.ie/reio.htm in the Consultation section.

Comments are invited on the proposed strategy and particularly the priorities identified in Annexes B and C, preferably in electronic format, by March 31st 2002. Comments should be directed to: rerdd@irish-energy.ie or by post to:

Renewable Energy RD&D Consultation

Irish Energy Centre

Glasnevin

Dublin 9

A final strategy will be issued in Summer 2002 adjusted in light of the comments received, accompanied by one or more calls for proposals for project support.

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# 9. Forestry Information Technology 2002

Second Announcement and Call for Papers for the Second International Seminar on Forestry Information Technology 2002 To be held 3-4 September 2002, in Helsinki, Finland:

The seminar aims at presenting the state-of-the-art of the information technology and systems as currently studied and applied in the field of forestry and forest operations worldwide. It will enable foresters and forest industry experts to explore, evaluate and fully utilize the potential of such systems and technologies. The seminar is organised by a group consisting of the major players in the forest sector in Finland. The main organising body is FINRPO, and technology export and marketing promotion company, supported by the University of Helsinki, the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Finnish Forest and Park Service in addition to major forest industry companies. The chairman of the organising committee is professor Esko.Mikkonen@helsinki.fi, University of Helsinki.

The scientific portion of the seminar is supported by IUFRO group 3.04. - Forest Operations Management. The seminar precedes and is organized sequentially with METKO 2002, the largest forest operations and technology exhibition in the Nordic countries. METKO will be run from 5th to 7th of September in Jämsänkoski, Middle Finland,  http://www.metko.fi/index\_eng.html

The first Forestry Information Technology seminar was held in May 2000 in Hyytiälä, organized by Finland’s Forest and Park Service (Metsähallitus, see pages http://www.metsa.fi ) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF, see pages http://www.mmm.fi ) under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training.

Papers and posters are invited from different countries in the field concerning the operations management and use of information technology systems in forestry. The organising group will select papers and posters based on abstracts received and the timeslot available.

The seminar will cover the following subject areas of applying information systems and technology in forestry. The different topics will be organised in parallel sessions as necessary.

1) Certification and environmental monitoring as information system

2) Geographic information systems and remote sensing; space technology applications; forest planning; advanced technologies of forest data management

3)Wood procurement, logging and transportation timber; forest operations management

4) Modern technology in measuring quantity and quality of timber

5) Mobile communication technology applications

6) Other interesting IT- applications

Posters are also welcome. Vendors are welcome to demonstrate implemented systems. The working language will be English.

For facilities and cost please refer to the web side at http://www.forestit.net

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# 10. Coillte National Fire Plan

The area burned by forest fires has increased in recent years on the Coillte estate. To combat fires, Coillte has a National Fire Plan, backed up by Standard Operating Procedures.

 Coillte is calling on all landowners to adhere to the following:

In areas where vegetation is potentially hazardous or flammable, adequate fire line protection should be carried out at each site. A scarified or rotovated perimeter with a minimum width of six metres is necessary for adequate protection.

Landowners are reminded that it is an offence under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife Act 2000), to burn vegetation on uncultivated land from the 1st of March to the 31st August, subject to certain limited exclusions. Subject to permission being granted, protective burning (controlled burning of adjoining lands) may be done outside of this period.

*If you see a fire you should:*

Observe the fire at a safe distance.

1. Contact the local Gardaí or fire services
2. State location of fire preferably by townland identification
3. If possible, contact the owner of the plantation or the local Coillte Manager.
4. NOT attempt to enter the fire zone until the necessary support services have arrived.

Where a privately owned plantation adjoins or is adjacent to a Coillte forest, Coillte is happy to work with the forest owner to devise cooperative fire prevention measures. Landowners should contact their local forest manager or local Coillte office (listed below) to arrange a meeting.

Castlebar: 094-29400 Cork: 021-4964366

Galway: 091 562129 Dublin: 01-6615666

Kilkenny: 056-21595 Letterkenny: 074-21139

Limerick: 061-337322 Mullingar: 044-42744

Portlaoise: 0502-21617 Scarriff: 061-921587

Sligo: 071-62663 Tralee: 066-7121529

During 2001, Coillte lost over 550 ha (twice the national average per year), ranging in age from one to over thirty years old. The main reason for the increase was the exceptionally dry weather during the months of March/April 2001. Ireland frequently experiences short periods of very dry weather during Feb/March and in June; these are the periods are when forests are most at risk.

 **For more information, please contact:**

Clíodhna Parker, Coillte Public Relations, Tel: 01-6635278, 086-2236493

John O’Sullivan Coillte National Fire Group, 0502-21617, 086-2579103

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# 11. Carbon Corner

Following on the successful outcome of the Marrakech climate conference all EU member states are actively involved in the process of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. These activities are in keeping with EU policy, which is to have the protocol ratified by all member states in time for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will take place in Johannesburg in late August/early September. Ireland’s preparation for ratification is well underway and it is expected that we will meet the deadline.

 Other Parties to the protocol, such as Canada, Japan and the Russian Federation have indicated that they will ratify in the near future, though this it is not a foregone conclusion.

 For the protocol to enter into force, for it to have legal effect, it must be ratified by at least 55 Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, these must include Parties listed in Annex 1 (developed economies and economies in transition) to the convention that accounted for at least 55% of the total Annex 1 greenhouse gas emissions in 1990.

When one examines the official UN estimates of emissions of Annex 1 Parties in 1990 – often referred to a the base-year - one sees the total emissions for all Annex 1 Parties was 4924.9 million tonnes (M t) of carbon equivalents. The US was the largest emitter: 1653.9 M t in 1990, while the EU accounted for 1157.4 M t or 24% of the emissions. As the US has said it will not ratify, other Parties that accounted for 31% (55-24%) of the emissions in 1990 must ratify for entry into force to occur.

Of the remaining Annex 1 parties four countries: Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine accounted for great majority of the balance (excluding the EU and the US) of emissions in 1990. They sum to 1576.7 M t of carbon equivalents or 32% of emissions. Thus, if these Parties ratify the protocol will enter into effect and emission reductions will be legally binding, with stiff penalties for non-compliance with targets.

Of the four parties Canada and Japan will almost certainly need to use sink credits (in the Japanese case probably a combination of domestic and non domestic sinks) in order to achieve compliance with their emission reduction targets. On the other hand the Russian Federation will probably be in a position to trade sink credits as its emissions have actually fallen since 1990. A similar position may also apply in the case of the Ukraine. However all four will be using sinks credits obtained under Article 3.4 (forest management) and these are capped for the first commitment period (the amounts are set out in the Marrakesh Accords).

There are strong environmental and economic incentives for many Parties to ratify and it is likely that the 55% target will be achieved and may be well be exceed over the next year and a half to two year period.

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# 12. EFI Events

Our colleagues in the European Forest Institute have asked us to bring the following events to your attention:

a) **Cross-Sectoral Impacts on Forests**

4-6 April 2002, Savonlinna, Finland

b) **Protecting Nature on Private Land - From Conflicts to Agreements**

12-15 June 2002, Lahti, Finland

*a) Cross-Sectoral Policy Impacts on Forests, 4-6 April, 2002, Savonlinna, Finland*

BACKGROUND

National forest programmes have been recognised as a major policy co-ordination frameworks to comprehensively address socio-economic, ecological and cultural aspects in securing and promoting sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests. During the IPF/IFF processes as well as at various forest policy fora several key issues in developing national forest programmes have been identified. Among them as one of the most challenging question is how to address inter-sectoral linkages and cross-sectoral policy impacts on forests and environment. In many cases other sectoral policies outside forest sector may have even stronger impact than forest policies per se. One major weakness in developing national forest programmes is linked to lacking, almost non-existing socio-economic and policy research on cross-sectoral policy impacts as well as unsatisfactory policy co-ordination.

AIMS OF THE MEETING ARE

1. Reviewing the state-of-art and discussing the world-wide challenges for policy research on cross-sectoral impacts on forests, challenges for

knowledge sharing related to the development of nfps and recent developments regarding holistic approaches,

2. Exploring the possibilities to integrate nfps into comprehensive development frameworks and reviewing inter-sectoral approaches within the framework of EU policies and Pan-European processes.

3. Exchanging expert views between researchers, policy makers, decision takers and high-level leading experts from global and regional processes and institutions dealing with national forest programmes, such as UNFF, UNDP/PROFOR, FAO Forestry Department, CIFOR, IUFRO, EU and Ministerial Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

* Robert Flies, European Commission
* Lennart Ljungman, FAO
* Peter Mayer, MCPFE
* Christian Mersmann, Profor / World Bank
* Knut Øistad, Ministry of Agriculture, Norway
* Aarne Reunala, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

TARGET GROUPS

* + Scientists in the fields of forest policy, forest economics and environment
	+ Policy makers and representatives of various governmental organisations
	+ Forest owners and their representatives at national and international levels
	+ Non-governmental organisations
	+ Forestry extension professionals
	+ Decision makers with an interest in forest policy, economics and environment
	+ COST E19 members and those interested in this action

FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/coste19/>

*b) Protecting Nature on Private Land - From Conflicts to Agreements, 12-15June 2002, Lahti, Finland*

BACKGROUND

Conservation of nature on private land and the conflicts with private property rights have been at the forefront of the current debate on conservation policy. Land use practices may change, fragment or destroy ecosystems, which has led into the need of nature protection. However, top-down approaches of conserving private lands, such as juridical or administrative regulation or taking land by the power of eminent domain, have been criticised for their inefficiency and lack of flexibility.

Therefore, options for policy interventions should be diversified, and the possibilities of landowners to participate in decision-making should be improved. Similarly, the methods of selecting protected areas, as well as the possibilities to combine protection and other activities need to be further developed.

THE AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP ARE

1. bringing together scientist from several disciplines

2. achieving an interdisciplinary view on reasons behind and consequences arising from collision of interests between nature conservation and land ownership

3. outlining ecologically, socially and economically sound principles for managing concrete cases where nature protection and land ownership conflict

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

* Jari Niemelä, Dept. of ecology and systematics, University of Helsinki
* Bengt Kriström, Dept. of forest economics, Swedish University of
* Agricultural Sciences
* Jason F. Shogren, Dept. of Economics and Finance, University of Wyoming
* Robert G. Haight, USDA Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station
* Holly Doremus, School of Law, University of California
* Georg Frank, Dept. of Silviculture, Austrian Federal Forest Research Centre

TARGET GROUPS

* + ecologists and foresters
	+ environmental economists
	+ environmental policy researchers

FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/Protecting_Nature/>

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# 13. National Tree Week

National Tree Week 2002 will take place from 3rd to 9th March with a variety of exciting events planned around the country. Organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and jointly sponsored by Coillte and SPAR, Tree Week has become a major national event.

Tree Week 2002 will be launched officially by Síle de Valera, T.D. Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, on Saturday 2nd March at Killaloe, Co. Clare.

The Tree Council, in association with its member organisations, has put together a programme of events which will take place during Tree Week. The theme of Tree Week 2002 is *’Follow the Tree Trail!’* and we are encouraging everybody to do just that at the many events around the country. For more information about the Tree Council and a full list of events check out their website [www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie)

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# 14. Conference: Management of Valuable Broadleaved Forests in Europe

The objective of the conference is to present research results on the management of mixed valuable broadleaved forests in Europe. It is being hosted by the Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat and will be held in Freiburg from May 5th to 9th. The conference is designed to bring together specialists involved in research in valuable broadleaved species including the following subjects:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Management of valuable broadleaved species in Europe: Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), European Ash (*Fraxinus  excelsior*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and others. |
| 2. | Prerequisites for production of high quality timber: site requirements, genetics, pests and insects |
| 3. | Crown architecture, stem form development, control of diameter growth, stand establishment, natural and artificial pruning, thinning regimes, final cutting systems, mixtures |
| 4. | Wood technology and European wood market, economic aspects |
| 5. | Selected externalities: landscape architecture, nature preservation, forest policy  |

The main selected results will be edited as a European Forest Institute Research Report that will serve as a scientific reference for researchers and students at university level and provide management tools for forest owners interested in growing high quality timber with valuable broadleaved species. An executive summary will provide decision makers with relevant information.

The conference language will be English. The conference will include invited papers, voluntary papers and posters. There will be three days of scientific presentations, workgroups, discussions and two whole-day excursions: one at the beginning of the conference to France and one at the end of the conference to the foothills of the Black Forest and the Kaiserstuhl.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

All scientists interested in participating are invited to submit the attached registration form.
In case you wish to present a paper or poster within the terms of the seminar please provide an abstract that must not exceed one page and must contain the names of authors with titles, addresses, and up to 5 key words.

The deadline   for submitting your abstract

and registration: 15 March 2002.

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# 15. Learning About Forests

The **Learning About Forests (LeAF)** programme aims to encourage school classes and teachers across Europe to use the forests in educational activities.   The objective is to equip the teachers and pupils with the necessary tools to go to the forest and “learn from it and with it”.

The Learning About Forests programme is a new programme on forest education, but it builds on the accumulated experience of well-established programmes in the European countries. It will be continually developed during the following years, with the intent that it will give teachers, pupils and other interested people some inspiration about how to engage in forest education.

The programme offers access to a wide range of teaching material, which has been developed across Europe. Most countries have some experience of using forests in education, as forests and nature in general are perfect settings for practical learning.  The material offered through Learning about Forests is mostly about practical activities taking place in forests and in the places where products from forests are used. The ambition is to provide material for all classes and subjects of the primary school.

St. Kieran’s school in Limerick has been chosen as a pilot school. Forest visits are planned and a teacher will be undertaking Masters research on the project in this school. Materials based on the Irish curriculum are being developed.

For more information visit: <http://www.learning-about-forests.org>

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# 16. Vacancy – Executive Secretary GFAR

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) is a stakeholder-led initiative that seeks to promote cost-effective partnerships and strategic alliances among the key players involved in agricultural research at national, regional and global level. GFAR provides a forum for the exchange of information and experiences among stakeholders of agricultural research and for discussions of strategic issues that are of interest to them. It operates through the GFAR Steering Committee and a Secretariat (headed by an Executive Secretary) hosted by FAO in Rome, Italy. The term agriculture covers the protection, conservation and use of all natural resources, including forests and wood products. For more information on GFAR, please see <http://www.egfar.org/>

The GFAR Steering Committee seeks an Executive Secretary for the GFAR Secretariat who will be responsible for the efficient functioning of the Secretariat and will ensure the accomplishment of its tasks. He/she will maintain close contact with all GFAR stakeholders and will act as Secretary to the GFAR Steering Committee. He/she will report to the Chairperson of the GFAR Steering Committee on all matters related to GFAR activities, and to the Director of the Research, Extension and Training Division (SDR) for FAO matters and administrative procedures. The Terms of Reference for this position are listed below.

The Executive Secretary will be appointed at the D-1 level by FAO according to FAO Rules and Regulations. The FAO organizational unit to which the GFAR Secretariat and its Executive Secretary will be attached is the Research, Extension and Training Division (SDR) of the Sustainable Development Department. Initial appointment will be for two years (with possible extensions to a maximum of six (6) years).

Please submit a letter of interest, substantiating your suitability for the position together with

a curriculum vitae, photocopies of supporting documents and the names of three professionals (including telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail address) who could provide references upon request. The application must be sent under confidential cover before April 1, 2002, to: Chair, Search Committee for GFAR Executive Secretary, IFAD, Via del Serafico 107, 00142 Rome, Italy

Fax: +39 (06) 5459-2018. Further particulars of the position may be obtained from the address above.

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# 17. Vacancy – Consultant/Science Writer

The Forestry Research Programme (FRP) is one of ten competitive grants programmes of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy (RNRRS). FRP funds research and dissemination projects that are targeted at the eradication of poverty.

Project outputs comprise quarterly and annual reports, informal and formal publications, and a final technical report with annexes. The information contained in these documents needs to be synthesised and achievements, developmental relevance and/or impact of the research highlighted for various audiences. These include policy makers, email fora and technical experts. There are over 100 projects since the 1980s, and future output will come in at irregular intervals.

We are looking for a person who will read and abstract the project outputs on a freelance consultancy basis, initially over a period of one year.

Essential qualifications include:

· Excellent written English

· Background in natural resources/tropical forestry

· Journalistic/science writing experience

If you are interested in this activity, please send your CV, examples of recent relevant work, availability dates and pay expectations to:

Hannah Jaenicke

Deputy Manager, Forestry Research Programme

Natural Resources International Ltd.

Park House, Bradbourne Lane,

Aylesford, Kent ME20 6SN

United Kingdom

telephone: +44-1732-878681

fax: +44-1732-220498/99

email: h.jaenicke@nrint.co.uk

# 18. Vacancy – Professor of Biology, Maynooth

National University of Ireland, Maynooth invites applications for appointment to the post of Professor of Biology. The position is full-time and permanent and carries also the responsibilities of Head of Department for at least a five year period. Established in 1971, the Department has an outstanding record in research and has been singularly successful in attracting research funding from both national and international agencies. Members of the Department have been supported by each of the three cycles of the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions administered by the Higher Education Authority.

Applicants should have a proven background of excellence in research, including a substantial record of scholarly publications. They should also have experience of providing leadership in teaching, and in academic administration.

Salary Scale (new entrants): €81,803 - €105,476 (6 points).

Prior to application, further details of the post should be obtained by writing to the **Personnel Officer, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, Confidential fax +353-1-708394**0; **E-mail: personnel@may.ie**

Applications, which should include a full *Curriculum Vitae,* a statement of research interests and future research plans, together with details of three referees (including postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers) should be forwarded to the Personnel Officer so as to arrive no later than **Friday, 5 April, 2002**. Applicants should also submit a concise statement on their vision of the future development of the Department.

Further information on the Department of Biology is available on the web at http://www.may.ie/academic. Inquiries may be made to **Dr Thomas McCarthy, Chair of the Search Committee for Professor of Biolog**y; Telephone: +353 1 708 6018; E-mail: pgdean@may.ie

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# 19. Vacancy – Associate Professor – Forest Resource Policy and Economics

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University is seeking applications for a faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in forest resources policy and economics. This is a 12-month, tenure-track position with research, teaching, and outreach responsibilities.

Qualifications: Applicants must hold a PhD and have demonstrated research interests in the areas of forest resources policy, forest economics, or forest management. A strong interest in collaborative interdisciplinary research is required. Training in political science, economics, sociology, law or related discipline is desired. Preference will be given to individuals with demonstrated ability to obtain extramural funding and publish in leading peer-reviewed journals.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will be expected to:

1) develop a rigorous forest policy research

program in a collaborative interdisciplinary environment,

2) teach one course in the undergraduate

policy-economics-management sequence and develop an innovative undergraduate or graduate course in forest resources policy, and

3) contribute to outreach activities in the area of forest resources policy and economics.

This faculty member will also advise students, serve on University and School committees, and perform other duties normally associated with academic appointments.

Rank and Salary: Commensurate with training and experience.

Review Date: Review of applications will begin April 15, 2002, and will continue until a qualified applicant is identified and recommended for appointment.

For information, contact Dr. Lawrence Teeter by phone (334) 844-1045 or e-mail *(teeter@auburn.ed*u).

To apply, submit a letter of application, resumé, transcripts, and have three letters of reference sent to: Lenore Martin, School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, 108 M. White Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL36849-5418, Alabama, USA

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