

Forestry and Wood Update

OCTOBER 2005 - Volume 5 Number 10

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# COFORD Events 2006

Topics and dates for the COFORD seminars and workshops planned for 2006 are:

15 February: Agroforestry

10 March: National forestry conference – co-hosted by COFORD, IFIC, ITGA, SIF

12 April: Engineered wood products and their application in the Irish context

10 May: Environmentally friendly alternatives to forestry operations

22-26 May: Wood energy week, including annual WoodEnergy conference, co-hosted by COFORD and SEI REIO

29-30 June: Broadleaf management

13 September: Out-wintering pads

11 October: Advances in timber preservation

15 November: IT developments and applications in the forest industry

Venues and details will be advertised in future newsletters and on [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). If you would like to express interest in any of these events, please send an email to [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie), or phone 01-2130725.

If you would like to suggest specific topics to be addressed at any of these events, or would like to make a presentation, please contact Lauren MacLennan, email: [Lauren.maclennan@coford.ie](mailto:Lauren.maclennan@coford.ie) or phone 01-2130725.

Similarly, if there are topics or issues you think should be addressed at a COFORD event in the future, we would be happy to discuss your ideas.

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# Wood biomass harvest and supply chain workshop

To cater for demand, the ***wood biomass harvest and supply chain workshop*** will be repeated on 19 October at the Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, starting at 9:30. [**Click here for more details and registration form**](http://www.coford.ie/seminars2005/woodbiomass-October.pdf)**.**

The workshop will be presented by Pieter Kofman (Wood Energy Consultant) and Tom Kent (Waterford Institute of Technology). It is a vital event for forest managers and all others wishing to get involved in the supply chain of the emerging wood biomass sector. There has been excellent feedback from participants at previous workshops, and early booking is advised. Workshop contents are:

• Introduction to wood biomass

• Overview of supply chain

• Wood biomass harvesting, transport and storage

• The Ten Commandments of wood biomass usage

• Quantification (tonnes, m3, kWhrs, GJ, etc.)

• Irish case study

• Biomass supply contract preparation

• Chipping and biomass boiler demonstration

Please note that this workshop is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The registration fee of €100.00 will include course material, biomass calculator software and refreshments.

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# Forest biodiversity conference

On 26 and 27 October, COFORD and the EPA will co-host the conference***Biodiversity in Irish forest plantations*** at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.  
[**Click here for more information and the booking form**](http://www.coford.ie/seminars2005/Biodiversity-051026.pdf)**.**

This conference will be a platform to present the findings of this research conducted by the BIOFOREST project team, and highlight the recommendations arising from the results. The aim is to provide direction for future biodiversity policy in relation to forestry development in Ireland. Presentations will be set in the context of international developments in the area, with keynote presentations from local and international experts.

The conference will provide an opportunity for networking and discussion, bringing together academics, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and anyone interested in maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of Irish plantation forests. In addition to the presentations, the event will include a demonstration of the BIOFOREST database, and a field visit showing biodiversity change through the forest cycle. The programme is described below:

**Day 1 – 26 October 2005.**

Chair: Dr Eugene Hendrick, Director COFORD

* Opening address  
  *Mr John Browne, Minister of State, Department of Agriculture and Food*
* Welcoming statement and overview of COFORD’s role in Irish biodiversity research  
  *Mr David Nevins, Chairman COFORD*
* The role of the EPA in Irish biodiversity research   
  *Dr Larry Stapleton, ERTDI programme*
* The role of plantations in enhancing forest biodiversity – recent trends and future prospects  
  *Dr Jonathan Humphrey, Forest Research, UK*
* Introduction to the BIOFOREST project, its place in Irish forest biodiversity research  
  *Prof. Paul Giller, UCC*
* The effects of afforestation on invertebrates  
  *Dr Tom Gittings, UCC*

Chair: Dr Conor Clenaghan, EPA

* Effects of open spaces within forests on spider and hoverfly diversity  
  *Ms Anne Oxbrough, UCC*
* The Hen Harrier and Irish forestry   
  *Dr Mark Wilson, UCC*
* Ground flora diversity over the forest cycle  
  *Dr Laura French, TCD*
* Epiphytes in the forest – a little-studied species reserve   
  *Ms Linda Coote, TCD*
* Field trip to nearby forestry plantations with demonstrations of  
  -biodiversity change through the forest cycle  
  - biodiversity in gaps  
  - biodiversity in a non-intimate tree mix  
  - tree climbing techniques

**Day 2 – 27 October 2005.**

Chair: Dr John Cross, National Parks and Wildlife Service

* Summary of previous day and introduction to the day ahead  
  *Dr John Cross, National Parks and Wildlife Service*
* The emerging forest policy in the EU and the role of the European Environment Agency  
  *Dr Tor-Björn Larsson, European Environment Agency*
* Forest biodiversity assessment approaches within the EU Forest Focus scheme  
  *Mr Pat Neville, Coillte*
* A comparison between plantation forests and other habitats, including semi-natural woodlands  
  *Dr Daniel Kelly and Dr Laura French, TCD*
* Planning for biodiversity in the afforestation process   
  *Dr Tom Gittings, UCC*
* The BIOFOREST database - innovative and user-friendly (*Hands-on demonstrations during the breaks.)  
  Ms Vicki O’Donnell, UCC*

Chair: Dr Susan Iremonger, BIOFOREST Manager

* Enhancing biodiversity in plantation forests   
  *Dr George Smith, TCD*
* Gaps in the plantation forests – a chance for enhancement of biodiversity in the landscape  
  *Dr Mark Wilson, UCC*
* Biodiversity - bridging the information gap between theory and practice  
  *Dr Michael Keane, Coillte*
* Progress in policies and practice in Irish forestry  
  *Noel Foley, Forest Service*
* The burning questions - gaps in knowledge illuminated by the research to date  
  *Prof. John O’Halloran, UCC*
* Plenary panel discussion session   
  *Chair: Prof. John O’Halloran, UCC*
* Where to from here?   
  *Dr Eugene Hendrick, Director COFORD*

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PHOTO: Dr George Smith of the BIOFOREST research team demonstrating tree climbing techniques at the Festival of Science, held in Dublin recently.

# Survey on COFORD’s performance

COFORD is conducting a survey to find out how you evaluate our activities, products and services. It is now available on-line on the COFORD website at <http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/questions_create.php?questions_areas_id=52>. The objectives of the survey are to evaluate the effectiveness of COFORD’s activities, to identify areas where we need to improve, and to obtain feedback from users of our services and products. The findings will assist us in improving our operations and make them more responsive to current user requirements.

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# Joe O’Carroll departs from COFORD

Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager with COFORD, will leave the organisation on 7 October to pursue other opportunities. In March 2000, Joe joined COFORD as research manager. From December 2001, he became Operations Manager in recognition of his wider responsibilities.

Joe has been an excellent colleague – full of enthusiasm and drive and all at COFORD are sorry to see him go, but wish him every success in his new endeavours.

Joe is pleased to have received a number of offers in the private sector since announcing his resignation from COFORD, but will initially concentrate a few personal business ventures. His forwarding contact details will be available from the COFORD office.

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# CARBON CORNER

## Getting ready for Kyoto

Many national governments - Parties to the Kyoto Protocol - are gearing up their national reporting systems to make them compliant with IPCC good practice in greenhouse gas inventories. In addition many are putting in place policies that will lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. One of the principal measures is switching to renewable fuels for heating, transport and electricity generation.

Just this week (September 28) the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources launched such a measure - a new government support mechanism for renewable energy [electricity] projects. The scheme changes the way government supports for renewable electricity work. Previously, support has been provided by way of competitive tendering under the Alternative Energy Requirement (AER) programme. The press release announcing the scheme also states: *Earlier this year following submissions to a Departmental consultation process and work carried out by the Renewable Energy Development Group, Minister Dempsey announced that he would change this support mechanism to a fixed price tariff system.*

COFORD has argued that the fixed price feed-in tariff is the way to go in securing investment in biomass-based electricity generation. Whether the price level announced, 7.2 euro cent per kWh, will attract that investment remains to be seen. The price is just 0.2 euro cent (less than 3%) above the ceiling price in the last tender-based AER call. That measure resulted in just one project, at Grainger Sawmill, coming on-stream. The availability of tax relief under the renewable energy projects scheme in the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (section 486b) may be a further incentive to investment. We shall wait and see.

The focus on electricity in the announcement should not deflect interest in heat only uses of biomass. There is probably even greater scope for biomass use in heat generation, whether in pellet or wood chip form. Carbon Corner is aware of considerable interest at government level in such uses, and of developments that should soon see the light of day. These are set to have far reaching effects on getting forests thinned and in stimulating rural enterprise. And they have the potential to deliver very significant reductions in the use of fossil fuel. However, consumers have become very used to the convenience of oil and gas and it will take a deal of education and marketing for wood fuels to make inroads in the domestic market. That is why a concerted effort is required from government departments and agencies, the wood fuel industry and the forestry sector to change attitudes and practices.

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# Plant Quality Conference

On 20 and 21 September, COFORD organised a conference at the Mount Wolseley Hotel in Tullow entitled *Plant Quality – Key to Success in Forestry*. Plant quality can be defined as the fitness of planting stock to establish and grow following out-planting from the nursery. To address the many issues around plant quality a number of international and national speakers were invited to give presentations.

Dr Tom D Landis, USDA Forest Service, addressed the issue of seedling quality in his paper *Applying the target seedling concept to nursery plant quality*. According to Tom, one of the unique aspects of the target seedling concept is collaboration between the nursery managers and their customers. At the start of any planting project, the forester and the nursery manager must agree on certain seedling specifications. This prototype target seedling is then grown in the nursery and is verified by out-planting trials which monitor survival and growth for up to five years. This information is then used to give valuable feedback to the nursery manager who can fine tune the target seedling specifications for the next crop.

Dr Conor O’Reilly, UCD, and Pat Doody, Coillte, presented a paper on the COFORD sponsored project – QUALIBROAD, in *Reaping what you sow – seeds and plant quality*. Their paper highlighted the importance of correct pre-treatment of seed before sowing.

Dr Heinrich Lösing, Nursery Consultant from Hamburg, presented a paper on the importance of attention to good management practices in the nursery especially in the control of harmful insects and weeds in the nursery in his paper *Weed and pest control in nursery production and their impact on plant quality*.

Dr David Thompson, Coillte, spoke on the role of tree improvement in plant production and quality. His take home message was that most characteristics in trees are regulated by genes. Therefore it is easier to try and understand and work with the genetic traits than to try and work against them.

In the afternoon, delegates visited the Coillte Nursery Headquarters in Ballintemple, led by Michael Doyle, Nursery manager, and Pat Doody, Seed manager.

The second morning session opened with a paper from John Kavanagh, None-so-Hardy Nurseries, on the *Practical management of quality in nursery production*. He was followed by Pat Long, Coillte, who presented a paper on *Improvement of plant quality through nursery research and added value*.

Dr Steve Colombo, Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research in Ontario, Canada, outlined a Canadian system for assessing plant quality in a paper on *A Canadian approach to evaluating effects of lifting, handling and storage on plant quality*. Steve highlighted the many different levels of stress that plants are subjected to in the process of lifting, storage and transportation to the planting site and the effect that this will have on plant growth success.

Dr Mike Perks and Alan Harrison of Forest Research, Scotland, spoke about *Integrating establishment practices and plant quality*.

The Forest Service have specific requirements for planting stock and John Connelly, Forest Service, outlined these in his paper *Forest Service requirements for nursery stock*. The growing private forestry sector also has specific requirements, as highlighted by John O’Reilly, GreenBelt Ltd., in a paper entitled *Plant quality – what the grower needs*. Dr Mick Keane, Coillte, discussed the future and the possible growth in the use of containerised plants in his presentation *Containerised plants and mechanised planting – the way forward?*.

The afternoon programme consisted of a visit to Coillte’s containerised nursery and vegetative propagation unit at Clone, Aughrim which was led by John Bardon, Coillte Nurseries, and David Thompson, Coillte Tree Improvement.

COFORD acknowledges the help and support received from the many forestry organisations, in particular, the Forest Service, University College Dublin, GreenBelt, None-so-Hardy and Coillte Nurseries in the preparation.

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# Subscribe to Forest Nursery Notes

Tom D. Landis, Consultant and Research Nursery Specialist, gave a most interesting presentation on [Applying the target seedling concept to nursery plant quality](http://www.coford.ie/seminars2005/pq/1-1-Landis.pdf) at the recent Plant Quality conference. He has invited readers to subscribe to the Forest Nursery Notes or other publications produced by RNGR (reforestation, nurseries and genetic resources team). They can also be downloaded from the website [www.rngr.net](http://www.rngr.net)

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# BIIHP AGM and field day

Approximately 25 delegates from Britain and Ireland attended the British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme (BIHIP) Annual General Meeting, field day and management committee meeting, held in Maynooth on 27 and 28 September - the first time this event has taken place in Ireland.

The Management Committee Meeting covered issues relating to the management of BIHIP:

* Funding – A meeting of the Funding Committee allocated £7,500 BIHIP funds for the financial year 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006. Based on requests for funding received, funds were allocated to the Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Ash and Walnut Groups. Funding was also allocated for the development of the BIHIP website.
* British and Irish Hardwood Trust – To date the British element has been established. The preliminary draft of the Trust Deed for Ireland has just been completed by the solicitor and was presented at the meeting. The final draft of the promotional brochure was also provided to the meeting. It is hoped that all the elements of the Trust will be in place by the end of the year.
* The Sir Eric Weiss Prize – This prize was announced earlier this year for the best plus tree identified for each of the species groups in BIHIP. Judging of the trees will take place in 2006.
* Species Group Issues – While intellectual property rights are still unresolved a paper was circulated and some discussion took place. A note on *Marketing Improved Material* was also circulated and discussed.

The meeting concluded with a dinner and a talk by Seamus Dunne, Forest Service on *Broadleaves – What’s out there?*.

The programme for 28 September included a visit to Donadea Forest Park, owned by Coillte, and to Joe Barry’s Forest at Larch Hill, Kilcock. At Donadea the group was met and welcomed by George Hipwell, Forest Manager. Dr Peter Savill, Oxford Forestry Institute, gave a short introduction to BIHIP. An introduction to earlier tree improvement work was presented by Dr David Thompson, Tree Improvement Coillte, on the EU ÉCLAIR Programme (the European Collaborative Linkage of Agriculture and Industry through Research). The objective of this programme was to improve the genetic quality of hardwood planting stock through biotechnology. The project consisted of the selection and propagation of phenotypically superior trees (plus trees) of oak, ash, cherry and sycamore. Both micropropagation and conventional cutting propagation methodologies were examined to develop clonal varieties of the four species and the project envisaged making the plants available on a commercial basis. When the project came to an end in March 1995 the following selections had been made (Table 1).

Table 1: Plus trees selected under the ÉCLAIR Programme 1990 – 1995.

| Species | No. of Selections in 1991 | No. of Selections in 1995 | Total no. of Selections |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Oak | 29 | 16 | 95 |
| Ash | 34 | 8 | 83 |
| Sycamore | 32 | 10 | 88 |
| Cherry | 35 | 14 | 54 |

Most of the selected material was grafted and placed in the broadleaf clone bank in Kilmacurra, Co Wicklow. Today the sycamore and ash selections have been used to establish a number of untested clonal seed orchards and are the basis of other improvement work in broadleaves. A number of selected trees were seen during the visit.

A final stop was made at a small grove of birch and Dr Ellen O’Connor, Teagasc, gave an introductory talk on the COFORD sponsored BIRCH Programme as well as an update.

At Joe Barry’s broadleaf plantation near Kilcock, a visit was made to the ash plantation where a lively discussion on the management of ash ensued. Mike Bulfin, Teagasc, introduced the COFORD sponsored BROADFORM Programme. The main objectives of this programme is to develop treatment protocols for the early management of broadleaved species, up to and after the time of first thinning.

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# The chemical and physical analysis of Irish pine, spruce and larch for use as a solid biofuel

Waterford Institute of Technology have been awarded a Technological Sector Research Strand 1 research grant to carry out a chemical and physical analysis of the wood and bark of three different tree species, namely pine (*Pinus contorta*), spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and larch (*Larix decidua*) from different locations in Ireland to assess the samples for use as a solid biofuel. Air emissions and ash content from wood combustion depends on the chemical composition of the wood used. Evidence suggests that the geographic source of the wood, as well as species, plays a role in determining the chemical make-up of the wood. In particular the degree of exposure to sea spray determines the chlorine content of the wood and ultimately influences the emissions and the wood ash composition as well as corrosion potential in wood burners.

The main parameters to be studied in the project are:

* Energy content (heat of combustion) of Irish wood: This is the total energy that can be made available by combustion in excess oxygen. The heating value of wood dry matter does not vary a great deal from one tree species to another (18.7 – 21.9 MJ/kg), but is slightly higher in coniferous trees than in deciduous trees due to higher lignin contents.
* Moisture content of Irish wood: This is an important characteristic of wood as it significantly influences the heating value. Wood is unusual in that it is hygroscopic; it releases and absorbs water depending on relative humidity of the surrounding environment. The lower the moisture content the higher the useful energy content due to the evaporation of water requiring energy. The moisture content of wood fuel varies from 20% to 70% on a wet weight basis and is influenced by the climatic conditions, the time of year, tree species, the part of the tree and the storage phase.
* Ash content: Typically ash content of wood is 1% of total dry matter weight. The amount of ash in a wood fuel as well as the temperature of the furnace can have several negative effects on the efficiency of this technology. Slagging of the ash as well as deposit formation within the furnace can lead to a reduction in net output of heat from the furnace..
* Heavy metals: Cadmium, lead, zinc, chromium, copper, mercury and arsenic and nickel can be found in wood samples in trace amounts.
* Chlorine and potassium: It is essential that the concentrations of these be kept to a minimum due to their negative effect on combustion. Large amounts of chlorine affect ash-melting behaviour. It reduces the ash melting point causing slag and deposit formation in furnaces, which influences the rate of corrosion of the burners.

The project is recruiting an honours graduate interested in carrying out a Masters of Science by research. The candidate will be a 1st or 2nd class honours graduate in chemistry, materials science or forestry. Suitable candidates should apply to the Research Postgraduate Admissions Office, Registrar’s Office, Waterford Institute of Technology by Friday 7h October 2005. For further information on this project contact: Dr Eleanor Owens, Chemical and Life Science Department, WIT, email: [eowens@wit.ie](mailto:eowens@wit.ie)

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# Leading Names in Irish furniture Exhibit at Create 2005

The first event of its kind in Ireland, *Create 2003* was officially opened on 26 September 2003 and ran until early October. The exhibition featured 74 pieces of furniture by 22 furniture designer makers and was a true celebration of excellence in design. Over 3,000 people visited the exhibition which was sponsored by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Coillte and supported by Fota House and GMIT Letterfrack (The Furniture College).

This autumn Ireland’s top furniture designer makers will once again exhibit their work at Create, in Fota House, Cork, opening to the public on 1 October until 16 October.  This year’s event  will feature all new work, most of which has never been exhibited before. In all 22 designer makers will be featured at Create 2005 and this year’s event will also see the introduction of a series of lecturers on the opening weekend of the show. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase some of the exhibits and for those wishing to commission their own unique piece of furniture detailed information will be available on each exhibitor.

For further information see [www.create-ireland.com](http://www.create-ireland.com) or contact Fota House on 021 – 4815543. For further information contact Frances McDonald. Tel: 023-29161 or 087-2420136, email mcdonald@sws.ie

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# Irish Forestry Awards

The RDS – Forest Service awards recognize and reward farmers who are employing the basic principles of sustainable forest management on their properties: sound commercial management; environmental protection; biodiversity; and social amenity. They promote the forestry industry of Ireland and the challenges it is facing and measures it is undertaking to provide for commercial timber production while maintaining a rich ecosystem to pass on to future generations.

The Royal Dublin Society has been championing and supporting the forestry industry since 1740, when the Society granted premiums which resulted in the planting of 55 million trees over 40 years. These awards are an example of the Society's commitment to agricultural advancement in Ireland.

The Forest Service and the state have been working for the past 100 years to foster the efficient and sustainable development of forestry in Ireland for ecological, commercial and social benefit. This is being achieved through a number of strategies which include: financial incentives, research and education, farm management training, and the planting of more trees including native and diverse species.

This year a Forester of the Year Award will be presented in conjunction with the current awards. This Award will be presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Irish forestry sector over the last year. Nominations can be made by individuals and representative bodies associated with the Irish forest industry.

There are two main categories in the 2005 awards: Farm Forestry and Biodiversity.

* Farm forestry: To promote excellence in forestry wood production for commercial use. Farmers and co-operatives using sound silvicultural management on their farms are encouraged to enter this category. While the focus of this category is on the management of the area for wood production, judges will also take into account additional innovations, and ecological and social measures employed in the area for example, wildlife conservation or enhancing biodiversity.
* Biodiverse forests/woodlands: To encourage diverse forest habitats for ecological benefit. Individuals and organisations which are expanding or developing existing or new forest habitats through natural and environmentally sensitive methods are encouraged to enter this category. Judges will take into account the planning and management of the area, ecological awareness, farming methods, control of grazers and invasive species, and sensitive felling and thinning.

Entry must be made on a standard application form – available from the RDS - answering ten questions about management of the forest or woodland. Judges will visit areas short-listed from the written submissions. The winner of each category will receive €2,000, a medallion and a perpetual trophy. Judges may also present certificates of merit in each category. Entries close on Friday 7 October 2005.

For further information contact Michael O'Brien, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin 4. Tel: + 353 (0)1 240 7299 or consult the website [www.rds.ie](http://www.rds.ie)

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# VACANCIES

Assistant/Associate Professor: Human dimensions, natural resources recreation and tourism at the Daniel B. Warnell School of Forest Resources, The University of Georgia

The Daniel B. Warnell School of Forest Resources (WSFR) is looking for a scientist in the area of human dimensions, with a strong focus in natural resources recreation and tourism (NRRT). The person will work cooperatively among the forestry, fisheries, NRRT, water and soil resources, and/or wildlife disciplines in WSFR.

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a research programme capable of attracting significant external funding in their area of expertise, and will be expected to work on a wide array of multidisciplinary, natural resources management projects with other scientists. Candidates will be expected to help extend the results of their research through collaboration with WSFR’s outreach and service faculty. The candidate also is expected to help develop WSFR’s program in NRRT, advise undergraduate professional students, serve on Senior Project/Thesis advisory committees, direct graduate students, serve on School and University committees, and actively participate in professional and/or scientific societies.

Send applications before 14 October 2005 to: Dr Robert J. Warren, Chair, Human Dimensions Search Committee, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; [*warren@forestry.uga.edu*](mailto:warren@forestry.uga.edu); (706) 542-6474.

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## Associate Dean for Extended Education and Extension Programme Leader, College of Forestry

The College of Forestry, Corvallis, Oregon State University, is advertising this post and closing date for applications is 1 November 2005.

The Associate Dean Extended Education and Extension Programme Leader will be an experienced scholar who can provide visionary and visible leadership for outreach programs within Forestry. He/she will lead an evolving effort to meet needs of emerging audiences and rapidly changing communities. The position has statewide executive responsibility and serves as the primary administrator for all aspects of extended education activities in the College. The position also carries leadership responsibilities for Oregon State University’s participation in the Sustainable Forestry Partnership. The position provides timely, cost effective, and knowledgeable support for identifying, managing and coordinating the resources necessary to plan, implement and evaluate outreach programs to a wide array of audiences.

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 1 November 2005. Electronic applications are preferred and should be sent via attachment to [Eric.Hansen2@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Eric.Hansen2@oregonstate.edu). Hard copy applications should be sent to: Chair, Associate Dean, Extended Education Search and Screening Committee, College of Forestry, 150 Peavy Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

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# Costing workshop for emerging contractors

The Department of Forest and Wood Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, is organising a workshop (8 November) focussing on a basic costing methodology for equipment and harvest system for emerging contractors. Workshop attendance is free of charge. Contractors who attend the workshop will be able to:

* Understand the rationale underlying, and importance of, equipment and systems costing for any forestry operation.
* Know and understand the terms and definitions of the individual components of a costing system (e.g. availability, utilisation, depreciation and cost of capital, etc)
* Understand what information is required to do comprehensive costing and where to source and assimilate the data
* Develop a simple costing system and calculate the cost of a machine and an operation

A variety of case studies will be dealt with to facilitate understanding and application.

For further information, contact Dirk Laengin, Forest Engineering, Department of Forest and Wood Science, Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag XI, Matieland 7602, South Africa. Phone +27 21 808 3888. Email [dwl@sun.ac.za](mailto:dwl@sun.ac.za), or consult the Forest Sciences website at: <http://www.sun.ac.za/forestry>

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# IUFRO Precision Forestry Symposium

A call for papers has been made for the IUFRO Precision Forestry Symposium to be held at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, from 5 to 10 March 2006. For further information please consult the website <http://www.sun.ac.za/forestry/pf2006>, or access the IUFRO website, Division 3.00.00.

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**Copies of the COFORD Annual Report 2004 are available, free of charge, from the COFORD office. Tel: 01-2130725 or email** [**info@coford.ie**](mailto:info@coford.ie)