.

Forestry and Wood Update

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# National Forestry Conference – 9 March 2007

The National Forestry Conference 2007 is co-hosted by COFORD, ITGA, IFIC and Society of Irish Foresters. It takes place on Friday 9 March 2007, at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. The theme is *Technologies to Improve Forest Management.* To reserve a place, contact the Society of Irish Foresters, email: sif@eircom.net. [Click here to download the programme and booking form.](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/nfc20070309.pdf) The programme includes:

* Welcoming address
Brendan Lacey, ITGA Chairman
* Opening address
Minister Mary Wallace TD, Minister of State for Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Food
* Developments and applications of technology in Finnish forest management
Dr Tore Högnäs, Head of Development in Forestry, Metsähallitus, Finland
* Developments in technologies employed in forest management in Northern Ireland
Jim McEwan and Jim Sutherland, Northern Ireland Forest Service
* Improving harvesting and timber sale efficiencies
Michael O’Shea, Coillte
* Uses of the National Forest Inventory and spatial datasets in future forest management
Frank Barrett and Mark Twomey, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food
* Introduction to demonstrations of current technologies
Tony Mannion, SIF Technical Director
* Demonstrations of current technologies:
	+ Uses of spatial datasets and the National Forest Inventory (Frank Barrett and Mark Twomey)
	+ GROWFOR - Dynamic Yield Models (Paddy Purser and Jacques Hamel)
	+ WindThrow - model for predicting windthrow probability (Áine Ní Dhubháin)
	+ Laser scanning technology (Enda Keane and Garret Mullooly)
	+ PractiSFM - Decision support system for sustainable forest management (Frank Barrett and Maarten Nieuwenhuis)
	+ Remote sensing to complement field-based inventories (Danny McInerney)

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# GROWFOR workshops

The latest version of GROWFOR (dynamic yield models for Irish Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, Norway spruce and Scots pine) was recently launched. The cost of becoming a registered GROWFOR user is €100 and attendance at a workshop on the use of these models is necessary. The following dates have been set for the workshops:

* 15 March 2007 – SWS Offices, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork
* 22 March 2007 – Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
* A third workshop will be held in May/June in Athenry - date to be confirmed shortly.

These are full day workshops incorporating a short outdoor field exercise in the morning and a classroom session in the afternoon. Limited spaces are available. If you are interested in attending, please email growfor@coford.ie

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# COFORD sponsors prizes at the ESAI Environ 2007

The ESAI Environ colloquium was held at Carlow IT on 17 January 2007. COFORD sponsored prizes for the best student poster presentation, and the best student oral presentation. These were won, respectively, by Andrew Keppel, Crops Research, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow for his poster on *Assessment of arable energy crops as heating fuels;* and David Walmsley, School of Biology and Environmental Science, Science Centre West, UCD, for his presentation on *Quantifying dissolved carbon losses from soils: effects of land use and management practice.*

For further information, go to [www.esaiweb.org](http://www.esaiweb.org)

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# FP7 funding schemes and news from the forestry sector

InnovaWood has collated a supplement to the COFORD newsletter – [click here to download](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/newsletter/Volume7/FP7%20funding%20schemes.pdf). It comes from various sources including the European Commission’s websites, Cordis News, the Forest Technology Platform, the European Forest Institute and other sources. Contents of this report are:

* FP7 Funding Schemes.
	+ Collaborative projects
	+ Networks of Excellence
	+ Coordination and support actions
	+ Individual projects: Support for ‘frontier’ research
	+ Support for training and career development of researchers
	+ Research for the benefit of specific groups (in particular SMEs)
* News of European initiatives in the sector
	+ European Institute of Technology
	+ agrifoodresearch.net
	+ News from the Forest Technology Platform Update
	+ FTP launches project database
	+ First call deadline
	+ Forest-based sector strives for lead-market recognition
* Events in Europe
* Projects from Cordis

Web addresses for further details are given at the end of each article. Please contact the InnovaWood Secretariat Dublin (tel: 01 6763181, email: office@innovawood.com) with any questions or comments.

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# Seed stands selected in 2006

Seed stand selection is an ongoing process and in 2006 some 270.2 ha of seed stands were selected, registered and added to the National Catalogue of Seed Stands. Stands with many different species are sometimes presented for registration. This is particularly true in the case of species in the ‘sourced identified’ category for the Native Woodland Scheme. This year, two such stands were presented and resulted in the creation of a new ‘multi-species’ category. Selections were mainly in the categories ‘selected’ or ‘source identified’ and were made in a number of species (Table 1). Stands selected are in the private forestry sector, the Coillte estate and the National Parks and Wildlife Service estate.

Table 1: Seed stands selected 1 January to 31 December 2006 by species, number of stands and area.

| **Species** | **Number of stands** | **Area (ha)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sessile oak | 2 | 43.6 |
| Pedunculate oak | 6 | 37.8 |
| Beech | 3 | 4.4 |
| Sweet chestnut | 2 | 6.2 |
| Scots pine | 1 | 1.1 |
| Douglas fir | 1 | 3.4 |
| Norway spruce | 4 | 64.1 |
| Sitka spruce | 4 | 58.2 |
| Japanese larch | 1 | 13.0 |
| European larch | 1 | 2.4 |
| Multi-species | 2 | 36.0 |
| Total Area |  | 270.2 |

If you have a stand of any species which you consider is above average quality and productivity and suitable for registration as a seed stand, contact John Fennessy at COFORD (tel: 01 2130725; email: john.fennessy@coford.ie).

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# National Tree Week 2007

Each year the Tree Council of Ireland organises National Tree Week to raise awareness about trees and to encourage local communities and local authorities to participate in the many events which take place around the country during this week. National Tree Week is now in its 23rd year and this year the theme is ‘Trees for Energy’.

This year National Tree Week takes place from Sunday 4 to Saturday 10 March. It will be officially launched by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, at Farmleigh House in the Phoenix Park. Many different events will take place throughout the country, from tree planting ceremonies to guided forest walks as well as lectures and guided tours of national historic parks. The Tree Council publishes an events guide of the complete programme and copies can be found in most libraries and some garden centres throughout Ireland, or directly from the Tree Council. For further information on contact the Tree Council (tel: 01 2849211) or visit [www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie)

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# Society of Irish Foresters’ Augustine Henry Memorial Lecture

The Society of Irish Foresters’ annual Augustine Henry Memorial Lecture will take place during National Tree Week at the Minerva Suite. RDS, Dublin, on Wednesday 7 March, commencing at 20:00. This year Dr Peter Wyse Jackson, Director of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, will give a talk on *Conserving the world’s endangered trees*. Admission to the talk is free. For further information contact the Society of Irish Foresters (tel: 071 9164434) or visit [www.societyofirishforesters.ie](http://www.societyofirishforesters.ie)

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# IUFRO communication survey

The International Union of Forest Research Organisations is conducting an on-line communication survey and your help would be appreciated. Communicating research results is rapidly rising on the science priority list. This is why the IUFRO Task Force on Communicating Forest Science (http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/communication/) has developed a survey with to discover and compare the communication and collaboration behaviour and activities of scientists working in forest research worldwide. The task force hopes to collect information that will be of use for improving the communication of forest science. The survey is available at: http://www.unipark.de/uc/iufro\_task\_force\_communicating/ It is completely anonymous and will take approximately 25 minutes to complete. The survey will be on-line until 31 March 2007.

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# Farm Woodland Forum: Trees for Farm and Community - Post Decoupling

This event will take place at the Rural College, Draperstown, Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland, from 26 to 28 June 2007. The annual meeting provides an opportunity for presentations, field visits and discussion on how decoupling of agricultural support away from production will create opportunities for trees to play a more central role in land use systems. The theme of the meeting will be to highlight the options available for farmers to utilise trees and woods plants and to consider ways in which the wider rural community can benefit.

The programme includes presentations by:

* Michael Doran, Rural Generation Ltd. - SRF woodchip CHP plant and wider issues.
* Geraldine O'Sullivan - wood-based products for energy generation.
* The Woodland Trust - the potential for community benefit from trees and the potential for trees to enhance the rural economy.
* Farmers Union - problems farming under the SFP and the opportunities trees offer.
* Dr Lindsay Easson, AFBI - renewable energy opportunities for NI agriculture.
* Current research in Farm Woodlands/Agroforestry.
* A series of papers with an overview of policy-related direction.

The deadline for submission of paper/poster abstracts is 31 March. Submission forms are available on-line at www.agroforestry.ac.uk by following the “Information on the 2007 meeting” link. This meeting is aimed towards practitioners, advisers and researchers. The venue is a purpose built educational/conference/recreational centre located in a state forest in the heart of Northern Ireland.

For further information contact: Conference Organiser, Jim McAdam, Applied Plant Science Division, AFBI Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX. Email: jim.mcadam@afbini.gov.uk Tel: 028 9025 5275, Fax: 028 9025 5003. [www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk)

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# 21st International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration (IFPRA) World Congress

The 21st IFPRA world Congress takes place in Dublin from 3 to 6 September 2007 at the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge under the title *‘Parks – A Celebration of Diversity’*. For further information contact Orla Murphy, Conference Partners Ltd, at 01 296 9329 or orla@conferencepartners.ie

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# Conferences at RENEXPO® Central and South-East-Europe 2007

The conferences at the 'RENEXPO® Central & South East Europe 2007' from 19 to 21 April 2007 in Budapest, Hungary, provide the opportunity for discussions on climate changes, the future of energy supply, sustainable solutions, impacts on the world market and present new concepts for sustainable energy supply and improving energy efficiency for the central and south-eastern region. Twelve conferences will deal with the whole renewable energy sector, considering everything from legal questions to financial strategies and market analysis to the latest technologies. For further information see http://www.energy-server.com; http://www.energie-server.de; www.renexpo-budapest.com

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# Call for Papers for Environmental and Development Studies

Atlantic Publishers & Distributors based at New Delhi in India will soon publish *Environmental Studies and Development Studies* edited by Dr K.R. Gupta and Dr Prasenjit Maiti et al. An invitation has been extended to authors to contribute to this multi-volume book series. Previously published papers can also be considered if the contributors can obtain republication consent on their own accord. The decision of the Editorial Board with regard to acceptance of papers shall be final. There is no deadline as such.

The paper(s) can focus on any aspect of environmental development and may seek to conjoin issues/concerns of sustainable environmentalism with the contributors' respective areas of academic expertise. The length of paper(s) is not limited. The publishers are interested in papers that focus on areas such as environmental economics, human ecology, political ecology, arsenic pollution, industrial pollution, air/water/noise pollution, groundwater depletion, soil contamination, solid waste management, joint forest management, water resource management, watershed conservation, rainwater harvesting, water supply and sanitation, rural and urban environmental management strategies, industrial effluent management, natural resource management, environmental ethics, awareness campaigns, activism and advocacy, healthy cities and sustainable environment. Send your paper(s) and brief biography to the Editor/Publisher Dr K.R. Gupta (email: editorial@atlanticbooks.com).

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# Ireland already seeks to exceed target

Noel Dempsey TD, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, welcomed the new biofuel targets set at a European Energy Council Meeting in Brussels in February 2007. The Council has decided to mandate Member States to provide 10% of their road transport fuels in the form of biofuel by 2020. Speaking after the conclusion of the Energy Council Meeting Minister Dempsey said that Ireland has already committed to reaching a 5.75% biofuel target by 2009 and meeting or exceeding the EU's 10% 2020 target by continuing to promote the development and use of biofuels" Minister Dempsey told the Energy Council that Europe should concentrate as a whole on mobilising around renewable and energy efficiency technologies and cleaner fossil fuel technologies for the transport, electricity and heat sectors. If this was done Europe could lead the world on ocean, offshore and onshore wind and solar energy as well as on clean coal technology. He said that Member States must, individually and collectively, rise to the energy challenge in the interests of all citizens and global sustainability. He continued. "For our part in Ireland we will continue to encourage the use of renewable and sustainable technologies at every level in society. In this regard I would like to particularly welcome the recent initiative by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council that they are encouraging more sustainable development through increasing the use of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency in all their new building developments.”

For further information, email press.office@dcmnr.gov.ie

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# International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Processing

Forintek, CTBA (France) and IVALSA (Italy) will host the First International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Processing (ISCHP) to be held in Quebec City, Canada, on 24 to 26 September 2007. The main objective of this conference is to bring together the scientific and research communities involved in hardwood processing and products to share knowledge and ideas. International experts, scientists and hardwood industry representatives are invited to discuss recent progress and innovative work in this area. The conference will cover subjects on temperate as well as on tropical hardwood processing. This first edition of the ISCHP will include product development, process optimisation, finishing practices, supply chain management, market review, and sustainable business practices. Additional information is available from the conference website: www.ischp.ca. To download the Conference flyer: http://www.forintek.ca/public/pdf/conference/ischp\_sept24-27\_2007.pdf. For information email info@ischp.ca

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