

The Small-scale Forestry Group 1986-2006

An overview on the Group activities during the last 20 years

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SUMMARY

This paper documents the history of the first 20 years of the IUFRO Small-scale Forestry Group. The origins of the Small-scale Forestry Group can be traced back to the “Five Year Report 1982 – 1986, IUFRO Division 3 Forest Operations and Techniques“ where “Division 3 took the initiative to intensify research in the area of Small-scale Forestry by promoting a new project group P 3.04...” In 1986 this group was founded during the IUFRO World Congress in Ljubljana.

This paper describes and critically assesses the way how the group has developed during the last 20 years and focuses on the following aspects:

1. The circumstances and the reasons for the foundation.
2. The meetings, places and mottos of the Group.
3. The range of research fields and issues that have been dealt with. The presented papers of each conference will be analysed according to their relationship to the traditional research fields such as:
 - forest economics
 - forest policy (including social environmental aspects)
 - forest technology
 - extension activities
4. The international spreading of the Group – a story of expansion
5. Cooperation with other IUFRO Groups, for example the “Forestry and Rural Development in Industrialised Countries Group“, 6.11.02.
6. The foundation of a new journal related to the Group: “Small-scale Forestry Economics, Management and Policy“.

The emergence of the Small-scale Forestry Group reflects the expanding interest in small-scale forestry as a field of study and its increasing social and economic importance.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES AND REASONS FOR THE FOUNDATION

Research on small-scale forests and their owners is confronted with a series of difficulties. In greater forest estates or privately owned enterprises a researcher who intends carrying out scientific investigations normally can be sure to find a set of data and information based on periodical inventories (area, age, tree-composition, standing volume, increment of stands etc.), management plans (allowable cut etc.) and on regular, bookkeeping and accountancy on a yearly basis.

Small privately owned forest holdings with a size below 200 ha normally can not offer such basic information to a researcher who will carry out specific investigations on topics dealing with this type of forests and of forest ownership. Thus it became necessary for the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg to establish a “Farm Forest accountancy network” in 1972 to gather, analyse and publish a large set of data on the structural, natural and economic situation of this type of forest ownership in Germany. An other great hindrance for research work was and is the great number of forest owners and their very sceptical or even rejecting attitude towards researchers and their interests.

Due to these negative preconditions research on small-scale forestry started late, long after the first

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great eruption of forest research in the last decades of the 19th century. The need for cooperation between the different researchers and research institutions also on an international level led in this first phase to the foundation of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations in 1892 in Berlin-Eberswalde, Germany.

SCHRAML gave a good overview on the historical development of small-scale forest owner research in Germany in his paper which was presented at the Symposium of the Small-scale Forestry Group in 2002 in Gengenbach (SCHRAML, 2004). He pointed out, that an impulse from outside was necessary to first direct the political and then the scientific interest towards small-scale private forest holdings (SCHRAML, 2004, p. 82). Such impulses had been for example the shortage in timber supply after the first and the second world war and also as a result of the oil crises in the mid-1970s. The repeated question was how to motivate the forest owners to use and to market more timber of their forests.

It took time until the 1980s that interest of the forest research community increased on topics about farm forestry. Not only the topics showed a broader field of interests but also the researchers represented a wider background. Next to foresters and forest researchers also legal experts, historians, political scientists, economists and forest labour science as ergonomic science developed an interest in the small-scale private forestry sector (SCHRAML, 2004, p. 84).

The growing research efforts as well as the publication of new results and knowledge found also response on an international level. The International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) as an international network for forest scientists has the objective to promote international cooperation in forestry and forest products research. It can be considered as the optimal platform for the organization of an information exchange between researches dealing with small-scale forests and their owners. Consequently the Leader of Division 3 of IUFRO, Prof. Marten BOL, “took the initiative to intensify research in the area of Small-scale Forestry by promoting a new project group P 3.04” in the years before 1986 (BOL, 1986). This group had been

established with agreement and in cooperation with the leaders of Div. 4 and 6 of IUFRO. It was officially founded during the XVIII IUFRO-World Congress in Ljubljana in 1986. At this first meeting in Ljubljana about 30 researchers from 10 countries signed a paper in which they declared their willingness to participate in the work of the group. 20 years later the IUFRO-group “Small-scale Forestry” has a approximately 700 members: scientists, extension professionals, policy-makers, decision-makers and post-graduate students of almost 50 countries from all over the world.

2. THE MEETINGS OF THE GROUP

During the 20 years of its existence 18 meetings of the Group took place.

Within each IUFRO-WORLD-CONFERENCE since 1986 a group meeting was integrated (1990, 1995, 2000, 2005), also in the IUFRO-CONFERENCE on the occasion of the 100-years-Anniversary of IUFRO 1992 in Berlin and Eberswalde.

Twelve separate meetings have been organized by members of the Group. Two of them joined meetings with the group 6.11.02 “Forestry and Rural Development”: Industrialized countries and one special meeting for the group S 6.07 “Forest History”, where members of the Small-scale Forestry Group have been invited.

It is quite remarkable how often a member of the Group, mostly a research organization, offered to be the host for a group-meeting. It is not a matter of course that persons and/or research organizations are willing to take the burden of the organizational work for such a meeting with 50-110 participants. This includes not only the perfect preparation of the meeting and the excursions but also the edition of the proceedings. There is reason to believe that the attractiveness of this special research field and also of the wide spread and important scientific results, presented in the papers, posters or by oral contributions during the meetings gave enough motivation for group-members to act as a host for a meeting.

Table 1: List of the meetings of the groups

Year	Place/Country	General Topic. Motto	Participants
1986	Ljubliana (former Yougoslavia)	Foundation of the Small-scale Forestry group during the XVIII IUFRO-WORLD-CONFERENCE	approx. 30
1988	Freiburg (Germany)	Economical and political aspects of Farm Forestry	58
1989	Helsinki (Finland)	Profitability of Private Forestry (workshop)	10
1990	Montreal (Canada)	XIX. IUFRO-WORLD-CONFERENCE	approx. 30
1991	Freiburg (Germany)	History of Small-scale Forestry; History of Farm. Forestry together with the Forest History Group of IUFRO S 6.07	50
1992	Berlin / Eberswalde (Germany)	Economic results from private forests in international comparison and adapted forest machinery for the work in Small-scale forest units. Meeting within the 100-years anniversary of IUFRO	approx. 25
1993	Fredericton (Canada)	Forestry and Rural Development in industrialized countries; Where are we going? Joint meeting with the group 6.11.02	approx. 60
1994	Krakow (Poland)	Private Forestry-Changes and Challenges of Countries in Transition	44
1995	Tampere (Finland)	Small-scale Forestry: Present problems and prospects for the future. XX. IUFRO-WORLD-CONFERENCE	42
1997	Kyoto (Japan)	Sustainable Management of Small-scale Forestry	113
1998	Vancouver (Canada)	Integrating Environmental Values into Small-scale Forestry	46
2000	Cairns (Australia)	Developing Policies to Encourage Small-Scale Forestry	approx. 70
2000	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	XXI. IUFRO-WORLD-CONFERENCE	approx. 30
2001	Joensuu (Finland)	Economic Sustainability of Small-scale Forestry	84
2002	Gengenbach (Germany)	Contributions of Family-Farm Enterprises to Sustainable Rural Development. Joint meeting with the group 6.11.02 "Forestry and Rural Development in Industrialized Countries"	approx. 90
2004	Pullman (USA)	Human Dimensions of Family, Farm and Community Forestry	approx. 110
2005	Vilnius (Lithuania)	Small-scale Forestry in a changing Environment	approx. 65
2005	Brisbane (Australia)	XXII. IUFRO-WORLD-Conference	approx. 45

The scientific outcome of the meetings which is documented in the proceedings has reached a very high level. For interested researches the proceedings can be seen as an inexhaustible source for information, worked out and presented by a worldwide network of researches.

A special factor for the success of all these meetings should not to be forgotten: The excursions, organized either as "In-conference-tours" or as "post-conference-tours".

These excursions are especially in our field an additional source for knowledge and information which cannot be underestimated. It gives many opportunities to see the real situation and the problems occurring by the management of privately owned small-scale forests. Also a lot of

additional information on landscape, historical development, settlement and about "the country and its people" is provided to the participants. These excursions enable the participants from foreign countries to get a good and real picture of the living conditions, the different possibilities and problems occurring with the management of a forest holding.

Furthermore should be mentioned the possibilities for intensive contacts between all participants during such excursions.

The meetings of the Group had also been strongly influenced by the Office-holders (Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators) and their activities. It is quite remarkable that in this 20 years only 2 Coordinators had been in duty. Each of them

Table 2: LIST OF OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE GROUP 1986 - 2010

Period (No. of the group)	Coordinator	Deputy Coordinator
1986 –1990 (P. 3. 04. 00)	N. Heding, Denmark (till 1987)	W.H Emmingham, USA
	Helmut Brandl, Germany (since 1987)	Helmut Brandl, Germany (till 1987)
1990- 1995 (P 3.04.00)	Helmut Brandl, Germany	J. Milton, France
		J. Swartström, Sweden
1995- 2000 (3.08.00)	Pentti Hyttinen, Finland	Y. Murashima, Japan
		H.U. Sinner, Germany
2000 – 2005 (3.08.00)	Pentti Hyttinen, Finland	John Herbohn, Australia
		Ikuo Ota, Japan
2005 – 2010 (3.08.00)	John Herbohn, Australia	Johan Barstad, Norway
		David Baumgartner, USA
		Ikuo Ota, Japan

could act during the full time which is allowed by IUFRO, these are 2 election-periods. For the future there are also good conditions to keep with this continuity. The new Coordinator, John Herbohn, had been in duty in the period before as Deputy Coordinator, and had been very active in this position.

The organizational structure of the Group documents also the shift to a wider opening on the international level.

3. RESEARCH FIELDS AND TOPICS OF THE PRESENTED PAPERS

The landscape of research fields and topics for research projects is in the Small-scale Forestry Group quite different to those of other IUFRO-Groups. Normally the working field of a Research Group has a narrow and clear definition. For example in 1986 in Division 3 “Forest Operations and Techniques” Groups existed such as “Tree harvesting”, “Centralized tree processing”, “Stand establishment operations”, “Forest operations under mountainous condition” or “Ergonomics in the timber industry”. In contrast to such a clear focus on a specific forest discipline or technique the great variety of topics is constitutional for the “Small-scale Forestry Group”. The focus on a special type of woodland owners opens the possibility that every forest discipline which is doing research work in connection with non-industrial private woodland owners and their

forests can use the meetings of the Small-scale Forestry Group as a platform to present their research and the problems the researchers have been confronted with.

This great variety of themes makes it hard to give an overview or even an impression on both, subject matter and research results of presented and published papers.

The list of all presented and/or published papers reached a number of more than 450. The only way to come to some statements on the contents of the papers was to structure them in categories.

After a first checking the following categories have been chosen:

1. General aspects of small-scale forestry
2. Forest economics
 - 2.1 Analysis of the economic situation
 - 2.2 Economic instruments to improve the economic situation
3. Forest policy
 - 3.1 General aspects, legislation, taxation, administration, governance
 - 3.2 Cooperation, associations
 - 3.3 Incentives, extension services
4. Community forestry
5. Social aspects, human dimensions
6. Ecological and environmental aspects
7. Forest technique and marketing
8. Agro-forestry
9. Management, forest inventory and planning, silviculture, afforestation
10. History

The results of this type of an analysis are shown in Table 3 and 4.

Papers dealing with general aspects of farm-forestry have been presented at nearly every meeting. Normally the hosting institution or

representatives of the country give an overview on the situation of small-scale forestry in the country or in a region.

Also general problems of this type of ownership have been topics for papers.

Table 3: Presented papers per category at the meetings (absolute)

Category	year	1	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	total
Freiburg	1988	5	4		3	4							3		19
Helsinki	1989	2	5												7
Montreal	1990		5	1		2					6		1		15
Freiburg	1991	3			1		1					6	1	24	36
Berlin	1992	4	6			1					4		2		17
Fredericton	1993	6	5	1	3	1	1	4			2		2		25
Krakow	1994	7	3	4	2	2	4	2					1		25
Tampere	1995	3	5	5		2	1	1			2		4		23
Kyoto	1997	4	1	4	2	6	1	2		4	3		2		29
Vancouver	1998	1	1		3	1	1			9	1		9		26
Kuala Lumpur	2000		1	1							2		1		5
Cairns	2000	5	3	3	5	2	6		5	4	5	3	7		48
Joensuu	2001	7	3	3	1	1	4	1	2	1			1		24
Gengenbach	2002	7	1	1	2	4	2	2	9		3	1	4	1	37
Pullman	2004	7	2	1	2	6	4	7	16	3	4	4	8		64
Vilnius	2005	5	2	3	7	4		1	11	2	2		5	1	43
Brisbane	2005	2			2	2	2	1	12		3		1		25
total		68	47	27	33	38	27	21	55	23	37	14	52	26	468

Table 4: Presented papers per category at the meetings [%]

Category	year	1	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	total
Freiburg	1988	26	21		16	21							16		100
Helsinki	1989	29	71												100
Montreal	1990		33	7		13				40			7		100
Freiburg	1991	8			3		3					17	3	66	100
Berlin	1992	24	35			6					23		12		100
Fredericton	1993	24	20	4	12	4	4	16			8		8		100
Krakow	1994	28	12	16	8	8	16	8					4		100
Tampere	1995	13	22	22		9	4	4			9		17		100
Kyoto	1997	14	3	14	7	21	3	7		14	10		7		100
Vancouver	1998	4	4		12	4	4			34	4		34		100
Cairns	2000	11	6	6	10	4	13		11	8	10	6	15		100
Kuala Lumpur	2000		20	20							40		20		100
Joensuu	2001	29	13	13	4	4	17	4	8	4			4		100
Gengenbach	2002	19	3	3	5	11	5	5	24		8	3	11	3	100
Pullman	2004	11	3	2	3	9	6	11	25	5	6	6	13		100
Vilnius	2005	12	5	7	16	9		2	25	5	5		12	2	100
Brisbane	2005	8			8	8	8	4	48		12		4		100
total		15	10	6	7	8	6	4	12	5	8	3	11	5	100

The first meetings were dominated by economic and political issues. This is in accordance with the results of the business meeting during the first official group meeting in 1988 at Freiburg. Looking at the great variety of possible topics to deal with, the group agreed to concentrate the objectives of the group work on few main aspects. The reason can be found during the short business-meeting: "Scientific exchange on problems of private forest management can only be achieved if the economic income situation in the individual countries is known. (...) all measures in forest policy terms of promotion of small-scale forestry are based on the economic situation, in particular the income and price structure in timber production" (BRANDL, 1989). Following these suggestions the next meeting in Helsinki (1989) was organized as a workshop meeting of experts with ten participants. As a main result "Guidelines for the presentation of data about the profitability of private forestry" have been worked out and distributed to the members of the group.

According to these guidelines papers have been presented at the meetings at Montreal (1990), Berlin (1992) and Fredericton (1993) in which the economic situation of small-scale forest owners is described. An international comparison between Austria, Finland, Germany and Japan on the economic situation has been carried out as well.

After the meeting in Tampere (1995) this economic issue lost importance while the significance of other topics increased. Political aspects and within them mainly questions of cooperation and association played a role in nearly every meeting.

The widely spread aspects of forest management, forest inventory and planning, silviculture and afforestation have been subject of papers in most meetings. Forest techniques and marketing came up as topics in Montreal 1990, mainly pushed by Swedish forest researchers who carried out research on adapted techniques for small-scale forest units. In later meetings also papers dealing with aspects of timber market and marketing have been presented. With the meeting at Fredericton (1993) community forestry came up as a new topic and also played a role in later meetings.

Papers dealing with environmental and ecological aspects have been presented since Kyoto (1997) with a peak in Vancouver (1998) according to the general topic of this meeting.

With the meeting at Cairns (2000) a shift of research interests can be observed. New topics on social aspects occurred. Not only hard facts on forests and bookkeeping data were of interest but also the personality of the forest owner with his personal goals, attitudes and behaviour became subject of research focus. Therefore also the methodical approach had changed to sociological surveys and enquiries as instruments of research work. The meetings since Gengenbach (2002) show the increasing importance of this topic.

Summing up all papers over these 20 years we find the political aspects with 21% in front of the ranking. This shows that society looks with great interest on this type of ownership. The potential of these forests to supply economics, social and environmental benefits to society is a great impulse for research work in this field. Also the political intention to promote small-scale private forestry stimulates research work, mainly in the direction of help for cooperation, associations and for the building up of extension services or to give reasons for incentives. On the second place in the ranking the economic aspects (17%) can be found. This is due to the decision of the first meeting to focus the work of the group on this direction. With 15% general aspects are well represented.

Management aspects (11%) are directly followed by research on social problems (10%). Forest techniques and marketing are represented at most of the meetings but not at a remarkable level (8%). Only few contributions can be found on History (6%), Community forestry (4%), environmental aspects (5%) and agro-forestry (3%).

The most remarkable result of this statistical analysis is the shift of research from hard facts (timber-volume, income, expenditure) to soft facts as attitudes, behaviour and goals of the forest owners. This shift finds its most prominent expression in the general topic of the meeting in Pullman (2004): "Human Dimensions of Family, Farm, and Community Forestry".

4. THE INTERNATIONAL SPREADING OF THE GROUP

The Group had been founded with a clear orientation towards the problems of privately owned small-scale forests in industrialized or developed countries. At the first meeting of foundation in Freiburg (1988) the classical European countries with a high share of private forest owners as Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy and Spain were represented. From countries outside of Europe researchers came from Canada, USA and Japan.

The restriction on developed countries had been confirmed at the meeting in Berlin (1992). In the report of the business meeting of the Group this is explained as follows: "It was made the suggestion to open the activities of the Group also for problems of developing countries with forest activities in small-scale forestry, esp. agro-forestry and economic problems. This proposal was discussed with other office-holders of IUFRO (leaders of divisions 3 and 4). The opinion was that a special program exists for the developing countries (SPDC). This program should integrate the problems of private forestry and small-scale forestry." (Brandl, 1993. p. 5)

In the same report a proposal from the business meeting of division 3 is mentioned: "The organization of a group-meeting 1992 in a country of Eastern Europe to deal with the special problems there".

The Small-scale Forestry Group followed this appeal and was successful in finding hosts in Poland. Thus the very successful meeting in Krakov could be organized in 1994. It was the first time that a greater number of researchers from these so-called "countries in transition" were able to attend this meeting – also thanks to a considerable financial support from the IUFRO-Special-Program "SPDC" (Coordinator Brian R. Payne, Ph. D.).

In consequence we find in 9 meetings papers from these countries.

Researchers from developing countries appear relatively late in the participants-list of the

meetings due to the mentioned restrictions. Since the meetings in Vancouver (1998) and Cairns (2000) the list of represented developing countries increased rapidly. Nowadays each continent is represented and the group is an integral part of the "global village".

If the presented papers are differentiated by the topics dealing with problems and research results in developed countries, in developing countries and countries in transition, there is a slight difference to the statistic regarding the country of origin of the participants (Table 6). The reason is that researchers from developed countries carry out research projects in developing countries, for example researchers from Australia in Papua-New-Guinea. This is the reason why at the meetings in Cairns (2000) so many papers on research work and research results in developing countries have been presented.

In spite of this opening the papers on problems in developed countries remain dominant. The tables show only one exception: The meeting 1991 in Freiburg, dealing with the history of small-scale forestry and of farm forests show a large number of participants and also of papers from developing countries. The reason for this was that thanks to a remarkable financial support participants from developing countries could be paid a great part of their traveling-costs. Thus researchers from Bangladesh, China, India and Nepal were able to participate.

Regarding the frequency of participation as shown in table 5, the highest rate is reached by Finland with 15 meetings with participants from this country, followed by Germany (14), Japan (13), Sweden (13), Canada (12), Austria (11), Ireland (10), UK (10), USA (9), France (7), and Slovenia (6).

Since Kyoto 1997 researchers from Australia took part in the meetings, and since Cairns 2000 they play a leading role in the Group.

Researchers of the other countries in table 5 occur more or less occasionally in the list of participants.

Table 5: Meetings and the countries of the origin of the participants

	Freiburg 1988	Helsinki 1989	Montreal 1990	Freiburg 1991	Berlin 1992	Fredericton 1993	Krakow 1994	Tampere 1995	Kyoto 1997	Vancouver 1998	Cairns 2000	Kuala Lumpur 2001	Joensuu 2002	Gengenbach 2002	Pullman 2004	Brisbane 2005	participation
Australia																	8
Austria	x	x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	11
Bangladesh											x	x					4
Belgium				x			x						x				4
Bolivia								x				x					3
Canada	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
China				x												x	2
Costa Rica			x														1
Croatia							x	x									2
Czechoslovakia				x													1
Czech Republic								x								x	2
Denmark	x									x	x	x					5
Democratic Republic															x		1
Estonia										x							1
Finland	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
France	x	x	x		x								x	x			7
Germany	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	14
Honduras													x	x			1
Hungary				x									x				2
India				x	x						x	x					5
Iran																	1
Ireland	x		x			x			x	x	x	x	x	x			16
Italy	x			x													2
Japan	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	13
Israel									x								1
Korea						x		x									2
Lithuania																	2
Luxembourg	x									x	x	x	x				5
Malaysia															x	x	2
Myanmar									x								1
Nepal														x			2
Netherlands				x													2
New Zealand									x	x			x				2
Nicaragua													x				1
Nigeria																	1
Northern Ireland	x							x									2
Norway	x			x					x	x	x	x	x				9
Parsons									x								1
Papua-New-Guinea										x	x						2
Paraguay									x								1
Philippines										x	x				x	x	4
Poland							x		x				x				2
Portugal													x				1
Slovak Republic													x				1
Slovenia					x	x	x	x	x						x		9
Spain	x																1
Sri Lanka															x	x	2
Sweden	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				14
Switzerland	x																1
Taiwan									x								1
Thailand							x										1
Turkey													x				1
Uganda																	1
United Kingdom	x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	11
USA	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
USSR (Russia)				x													2

Table 6: Meetings and amount of papers dealing with problems in developed countries, developing countries or countries in transition

year	place	presentations total	developed countries		developing countries		countries in transition	
			presentations	%	presentations	%	presentations	%
1988	Freiburg	19	19	100				
1989	Helsinki	7	7	100				
1990	Montreal	15	14	93	1	7		
1991	Freiburg	36	21	58	11	31	4	11
1992	Berlin	17	14	82	2	12	1	6
1993	Fredericton	25	23	92	1	4	1	4
1994	Krakow	25	17	68			8	32
1995	Tampere	23	20	87			3	13
1997	Kyoto	29	25	86	1	4	3	10
1998	Vancouver	26	25	96	1	1		
2000	Cairns	48	39	81	9	19		
2001	Joensuu	24	21	88			3	12
2002	Gengenbach	37	35	95	2	5		
2004	Pullman	64	43	67	17	27	4	6
2005	Vilnius	43	29	67	2	5	12	28
2005	Brisbane	25	18	72	4	16	3	12
Summe		463	370	80%	51	11%	42	9%

5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER IUFRO-GROUPS

First contacts on a personal level could be established with members of the IUFRO/Group 6.11.02 “Forestry and rural development in industrialized countries” during an international FAO/ECE/ILO “Seminar on extension activities for owners of small woodlands” in Fredericton/Canada on September 26th to 29th, 1987. At the business meeting of the group at Berlin (1992) an invitation to the group was presented by Hans C. Scholz, Canada, to “participate in an IUFRO-Symposium at Fredericton, Canada, in September 1993 with the theme: “Forestry and rural development in industrialized countries”, organized by the group 6.11.02 with the identical name. It was decided “to accept this invitation with its program and to offer this symposium as a joint meeting to all members of the group Small-scale Forestry”. The main reason was and is until now that the topics of this and later meeting are similar to those of the Small-scale Forestry Group that occasionally conducted joint meetings made sense.

Other joint meetings have been organized in Kyoto, Japan (1997) and in Gengenbach, Germany (2002). The exchange between the two groups is also practiced when separate meetings are planned – by mutual information on date, place and general topics.

Due to a personal connection to the IUFRO-Group 6.07 “Forest History” the coordinator of the Small-scale Forestry Group organized a meeting for the members of the History Group in 1991 in Freiburg, to which also members of the Small-scale Forestry Group have been invited.

6. THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW JOURNAL DEDICATED TO SMALL-SCALE FORESTRY

Since the appearance of the “Small-scale Forestry-Group” in the scientific domain as an organized research group of IUFRO in 1986 the development of this group can be characterized as a success-story – as the chapters 1-5 show. The attractiveness

of the meetings within short intervals (12 – 18 months), the quality of the presented papers and of the proceedings helped building up a worldwide network of highly interested and qualified researchers. This successful development has not come to an end yet. During the symposium of the group, held in Cairns, Australia (2000) a gap was identified: Until then no scientific journal existed which is dedicated to the publication of research articles relating to small-scale forestry. The idea was born to fill this niche by establishing a new specific scientific journal.

In August 2002 Vol. 1 No. 1 of the journal “Small-scale Forest Economics, Management and Policy” was edited. The main preparatory work had been done by Dr. John Herbohn (now Managing Director of the journal) and Dr. Steve Harrison (now Editor in Chief) as Pentti Hyttinen as IUFRO 3.08.00 “Small-scale Forestry” Coordinator in his “Introducing the New Journal” had pointed out.

Important sponsors such as The University of Queensland, The University of Joensuu and the Society of American Foresters Private Forestry Working Party had made the launch possible. The purpose and the conception of the journal can be found very clearly described by Steve Harrison, John Herbohn and Anssi Niskane in their article “Non-industrial, Smallholder, Small-scale and Family Forestry: What’s in a name?” in the first issue (Harrison et al. Small-scale Forest Economics, Management and Policy, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1-11).

In the following years the journal developed to a success-story by itself. The first plan was to edit 2-3 issues per year but the amount increased to 4-5 per year while remaining the high quality.

At the beginning of 1986 nobody would have formulated the expectation that research in such a complex field as small-scale forestry would encounter such a high interest for the described meetings which offer the possibility to exchange information on research problems, continue research efforts and disseminate research results. Furthermore it became basis for the existence of a rigorous scientific journal, related to articles on small-scale forestry.

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