

EU research project WOOD-EN-MAN will be carried out in Scandinavian and Baltic countries

Last year forest research institutions from Scandinavian and Baltic countries: Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute, Norwegian Forest Research Institute, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Estonian Agricultural University, Latvian Forestry Research Institute and Lithuanian Forest Research Institute signed to join a project called “WOOD FOR ENERGY – a contribution to the development of sustainable forest management” (*WOOD-EN-MAN*), to be carried out in the EU 5th framework of the specific research and technological development program “Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources”.

As mentioned in the Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational level guidelines for sustainable forest management, developed in Strasbourg (1990), Helsinki (1993) and Lisbon (1998), the objectives must be closely related with attitude that the increased use of wood –based biomass must fulfil the principles of sustainable forest management. In Helsinki resolutions the sustainable forest management is described as “the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”. The similar ideas were stressed in Lisbon resolutions: the role of forests in global carbon cycle, their health and vitality (including nutrient balance), productive function – wood and non-wood, protection of soil, water, and biodiversity, other socio-economic functions. The goals of *WOOD-EN-*

MAN project in general could be described as: to develop operational level management guidelines for sustainable utilisation of wood-based biomass from conventional forests for energy; to provide national as well as regional (EU and Pan-European) policy recommendations for the further development of sustainable forest management in Europe and for achieving wanted goals on the use of wood-based biomass for energy. The operational level management guidelines and policy recommendations will be based on analyses of present knowledge as well as new research. Focus will be placed on the increased export of nutrients from the forest soils, possible use of wood ash to compensate for the nutrient export, and effects on biodiversity and insect pests.

This project has few specific objectives - to make forest owners, forest managers, policy makers and other interested parties able to assess: the nutrient vulnerability of forest ecosystems relevant to an increased use of marginal wood resources for energy; the ecological and biological effects of wood ash recycling; the wood ash contents of ecotoxic components and risk of release to soil and seepage water when wood ash is applied to forest ecosystems; the effects of temporary storage of marginal wood resources on the insect fauna and the risk of bark beetles attacks on living trees; to introduce how to analyse the effects of producing wood-based biomass for energy from pre-commercial thinning and clear-cut on stand level management; to make information available – the focus will be placed on the synthesis of the different environmental and socio-economic guidelines and the proper use of them. As the results of *WOOD-*

EN-MAN project following products will be “produced”: 1) a book with operational management guidelines on the ecologically and socioeconomically sustainable production of wood for energy; 2) web pages and publications with national guidelines; 3) a report on national, EU and Pan-European level policy recommendations for the further development of sustainable forest management and for achieving wanted goals on the use of wood-based biomass for energy in an ecologically and socioeconomically sustainable way; 4) a web page for information of and communication with end-users and for communication and internal flow of information within the project; 5) a tool for personal computers for assessment of ecosystem nutrient vulnerability, wood ash compensation and supply of ecotoxic components; 6) a database on wood ash properties; 7) end-user workshops and meetings; 8) scientific papers.

To reach the objectives of *WOOD-EN-MAN*, 11 workpackages (WP) have been clustered into 5 key-topics. The clustering of workpackages and the relationship between key-topics is shown in *Table 1*. The duration of the project shall be 48 months.

In 17-20 th of October, last year the *WOOD-EN-MAN* kick-off meeting was organised at the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute. Researchers from all the participant countries were introduced with the project objectives, work organisation, time schedules and expected results.

So good luck for all the participants of WOOD-EN-MAN, particularly for project coordinators – Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute as well as for chairman of Steering committee Dr. Karsten Raulund-Rasmussen.

Table 1. Key-topics, workpackages and partners involved in the WOOD-EN-MAN project

Key-topic	Workpackage (WP)		Partners responsible for the work in WP*	Leading institutions *
1. Ecosystem nutrient vulnerability	WP 1	<i>Nutrient balances</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.	1.
	WP 2	<i>Soil nutrient release capability</i>		
2. Ecological consequences of wood ash recycling	WP 3	<i>Wood ash recycling and ecotoxic components</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.	2, 5.
	WP 4	<i>Integrated field experiments</i>		
3. Biodiversity and insect pests	WP 5	<i>Biodiversity</i>	1, 2, 5, 6.	2.
	WP 6	<i>Insect pests</i>		
4. Socioeconomics	WP 7	<i>Forest management level economy</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.	3, 4.
	WP 8	<i>Policy analysis</i>		
5. Management and policy	WP 9	<i>Operational level guidelines</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.	1, 3, 4.
	WP 10	<i>Policy recommendations</i>		
	WP 11	<i>Dissemination</i>		

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* List of participants:
partner 1: Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute (1), partner 2: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (2), partner 3: Finnish Forest Research Institute (3), partner 4: Norwegian Forest Research Institute (4), partner 5: Lithuanian Forest Research Institute (5), partner 6: Latvian Forestry Research Institute (6), partner 7: Estonian Agricultural University (7).



The participants of WOOD-EN-MAN kick-off meeting at the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute in Kaunas.