

## **OPENING PAGE**

# **Small-scale Forestry and Rural Development: The Intersection of Ecosystems, Economics and Society**

**IUFRO 3.08 Small-scale Forestry International Symposium  
Galway, Ireland  
June 18-23, 2006**

In the past decades, there has been a marked shift in the nature of small-scale forestry. This symposium explores the evolving nature of small-scale forestry and the challenges and opportunities this evolution presents to sustainable rural development.

Small-scale forests by their nature, often represent considerable “viability” challenges to their owners and/or to the agencies responsible for developing policies and programmes to support and regulate them. Over the centuries, as society has changed, so too have the demands placed on forests and their subsequent management. In recent years, the emphasis in management objectives appears to have shifted from intensive, exclusive and singular (timber productivity) to a broader, more inclusive multipurpose approach. Concurrent with changes in the motivations for small-scale forest ownership/management, are the challenges of: ensuring continuity of supply from a disparate source; creating new markets for new forest products; and devising methods for internalising the welfare benefits of healthy and diverse forests for the owners of these forests.

The evolving nature of small-scale forestry presents a multitude of questions and challenges for the owners themselves, the practitioners working in the forests, the extension and rural development services that deal with forest owners and the public bodies who represent and regulate them.

We are seeking papers that explore the many issues associated with small-scale forestry and rural development and the implications these issues have for ecosystem health, economic viability and societal well-being.

The Symposium will be hosted by the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in collaboration with COFORD (National Council for Forest Research and Development) and Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority).

For enquiries please contact Sarah Wall ([sarah.wall@gmit.ie](mailto:sarah.wall@gmit.ie))

## **CONFERENCE THEME**

This symposium explores the evolving nature of small-scale forestry. In the past decades, there has been a marked shift in the nature of small-scale forestry. The motivations for ownership are changing from economic to ecological and perhaps to even social/cultural (tradition, nice to own forests, possible to hunt, etc.) causing problems for example to wood supply, but opportunities for other markets. Forests provide many benefits to other people, companies and the society, but these welfare effects are often difficult to internalise such that they also benefit forest owners. The shift in ownership motivations has given rise to an interest in how these 'new forest owners' view their forests and the implications for such activities as: extension services; the role of forest cooperatives and owner associations; downstream processing and market development; and the impact of family owned forestry businesses on rural development.

We are seeking papers that explore the various issues and opportunities (environmental, economic and social) for rural development through small-scale forestry. Questions of interest include:

- How and why is small-scale forestry changing? Are there consistent patterns emerging around the world?
- How do small-scale forestry and rural development currently co-exist? What does small-scale forestry contribute to rural development? What obligations does rural development place on small-scale forestry?
- Who are the forest owners and what are their motivations for the management of their forests? How do these motivations contribute/conflict with rural development objectives? Is multipurpose management recognised by small-scale forest owners?
- Is multipurpose forest management a help or a hindrance to rural development?
- What implications do age profiles of forest owners have on forest management and rural development?
- What recognition is given to the contribution of small-scale forests to livelihoods particularly in developing countries?
- What models exist for family and community forestry systems and their impacts on timber supply, communities and the environment? How do changes in small-scale forestry impact on timber supply? What approaches have been taken in different countries to regulate supply?
- What are the issues associated with supply chain management and technical challenges in the efficient operation of the small-scale forest sector?
- Are co-operatives and grower associations of assistance to small-scale forest owners? What makes a successful co-operative? Are co-ops proactive or reactive? How do they contribute to rural development?

- What are the potential multiple benefits of small-scale forests to rural economies and how must they be managed to successfully realise such benefits? Who pays for these benefits and what rights do the public have to access such benefits?
- What are the policy implications for rural development as a result of the changing nature of small-scale forestry? How do forestry policy and rural development policy effect each other? What are the implications for the various agencies that support small-scale forestry? What links exist between small-scale forestry agencies and rural development agencies?
- Should small-scale forestry be externally supported? If yes, how can it be supported sustainably, for long-term viability? If no, what are the consequences expected? Is the support of multipurpose small-scale forestry more easily justified?
- What tradeoffs may be expected to arise as a result of multipurpose small-scale forest management? What challenges do these tradeoffs pose for policy development?
- How successfully have small-scale forestry research results been integrated into policy development and into rural development?

We will consider papers across a broad spectrum. We are especially interested in integrative papers that look at the tradeoffs between various functions and the challenges that these tradeoffs pose for both policy development and rural development.

### **KEY DATES**

First Call for Papers: December 12 2005, with January 10, 2006 for notification of acceptance.

Second Call for Papers: February 1, 2006 deadline with March 1, 2006 notification of acceptance.

Later Paper and Poster submissions will be accepted on a space available basis.

Completed Paper Submission Deadline: May 1, 2006. This is the deadline for papers to be included in the proceedings. Completed papers must be in the hands of the symposium organizers by May 1, 2006. It is intended that proceedings will be printed before the symposium and distributed at the symposium.

## **SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

Please submit abstracts up to one page in length by e-mail to:

Sarah Wall (sarah.wall@gmit.ie)

Abstracts should include the following sections:

1. Title
2. Authors
3. Abstract text
4. Contact details, especially e-mail address

## **REGISTRATION**

**Registration details to be announced.**

## **HOST ORGANISATION AND LOCATION**

The symposium will be hosted by the **Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)** located on the outskirts of Galway city, county Galway, on the west coast of Ireland. It is organised in collaboration with the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) Research Group 3.08 Small-scale Forestry and supported by COFORD (Council for Forest Research and Development, Ireland) and Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority). The GMIT campus will be the venue for the symposium.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

**It will be possible to book directly through the accommodation providers (Corrib Great Southern Hotel and Days Hotel, Galway) as well as local guesthouses. More details to be announced.**

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Niall Farelly, Teagasc, Ireland  
Ray Gallagher, Western Forestry Co-op, ICOS, Ireland  
Corinna Gavin, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland  
Dr John Herbohn, The University of Queensland, Australia  
Donal Keegan, Forest Service, Ireland  
Sarah Wall, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland (Chair)

## **SCIENTIFIC PANEL**

Professor John Bliss, Oregon State University, USA  
Professor Matt Carroll, Washington State University, USA  
Dr Aine Ni Dhubhain, University College Dublin, Ireland

Dr Steve Harrison, The University of Queensland, Australia  
Dr Eugene Hendrick, COFORD, Ireland  
Dr John Herbohn, The University of Queensland, Australia (Chair)  
Dr László Jáger, University of West-Hungary, Hungary  
Dr Anssi Niskanen, Joensuu University, Finland  
Dr Mark Rickenbach, University of Wisconsin, USA  
Professor Bill Slee, University of Gloucestershire, UK  
Dr Ståle Størdal, Eastern Norway Research Institute, Norway  
Ms Sarah Wall, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland