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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

twenty-fourth session

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 12-14 September 2002

**Review of the activities in wood harvesting and transport (subject area 2)
and programme for 2003-2005**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Note by the secretariat

This document presents the activities in subject area 1 since the Joint Committee's twenty-third session and draws the Committee's attention to a number of points for decision (in bold, italic type).

The Joint Committee is invited to:

- review its past activities in this subject area and agree on activities for the future;
- agree on the specific points drawn to its attention.

2.1 Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport

Review of activities:

1. Due to a strong request by experts and institutions, a reprint was made of the FAO/ECE/ILO proceedings of the seminar on “Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport”, held in Sinaia, Romania in 1996. The reprinted version of the report is being distributed.

Points for decision:

- *For information only.*

Programme 2003 to 2005:

2. FAO has been requested to draft an outline for a seminar or workshop proposed to be held in Hungary in the year 2004. FAO was also requested to keep under review developments in this field. The work on the draft outline for the proposed seminar on forest roads and wood transport has been initiated and will be made available to the Committee before the session..

Points for decision:

- *The Committee is invited to discuss the draft outline and provide guidance on the content of the programme for the proposed seminar or workshop.*

2.2 New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems

Review of activities:

3. The workshop on “New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems for sustainable forest management in the mountains” was held at the forestry training centre in Ossiach, Austria, from 18 to 24 June 2001. More than 100 participants from 24 countries attended the meeting. Forty-four papers were presented and, additionally, a field excursion as well as a machine and equipment exhibitions enriched the programme. The workshop proceedings are under final preparation and will soon be published.

Points for decision:

- *The Committee is invited to provide guidance on the implementation of the workshop recommendations (see report TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.51/2).*

2.3 Mobilization of additional wood supply, mainly from private forests

Review of activities:

4. Mr. Hoefle informed the last session of the Steering Committee that Germany could not confirm the hosting of a seminar on the above mentioned subject area, but he would pursue this matter further with the German authorities.

Points for decision:

- *Mr. Hoefle will further inform the Committee of preparations for the proposed seminar*

2.4 Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas

Review of activities:

5. At the last Steering Committee Mr. Korobov (Russian Federation) confirmed the arrangements for the seminar in Sochi, Russian Federation, organised by the Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology Research Institute which was scheduled for October 2002. A tentative programme was presented at the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee. Due to difficulties in communicating with the Research Institute and shortage of human resources, secretariat services could unfortunately not be provided for this activity.

6. At the time of writing this note, the secretariat received a fax from Mr. Korobov indicating: "The Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has announced that because of objective reasons it is impossible to organise the Timber Seminar in Sochi in 2002 and they propose to postpone it until the years 2003/2004."

Points for decision:

- ***The Committee will be briefed on the status of the proposed seminar and should decide whether to continue with preparations for the seminar.***

2.5 Other topics

Programme 2003 to 2005:

7. Discussions were held with the Slovenian Government Authorities concerning an international workshop on "Forest operation improvements in farm forests". The Slovenian Government would be prepared to host a meeting in this subject area under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee in Bled, Slovenia, in 2003. A tentative draft programme has been prepared for consideration by the Joint Committee, and will be circulated before the session.

Points for decision:

- ***The Committee may wish to discuss the proposal and provide guidance on the programme of the workshop and the timing.***

Team of specialists on mechanization of forest operations in the mountains:

8. In the last three years a rapid development has taken place in the mechanization of wood harvesting operations in steep terrain in support of sustainable forest management. There might be a need of establishing a team of specialists on this topic in the near future to review the progress in this area and exchange experience and information.

Points for decision:

- ***The Committee is invited to discuss the need to establish a team of specialists, bearing in mind the conditions considered necessary for a successful team (see recommendations by the ECE/FAO strategic review and reproduced in document TIM/EFC/WP.1/2002/8). If it wishes to set up such a team it should propose a mandate in the standard format. In accordance with the decision of the strategic review and because of the implications for secretariat resources, the final decision for setting up a new team will be taken by the bureaux of the parent bodies who would be informed of the Joint Committee's proposal at their sessions in September and November 2002.***