

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.
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Tropical Paradox: Even with the most intensive silviculture, the forests of the Temperate Zone are unlikely to satisfy world wood needs by 1975. Forest economists are in substantial agreement that we must go to the Tropics to help bridge the gap between demand and supply.

But it is far from certain how far the world can rely on this source, for the area of tropical forests is steadily diminishing. Of the three million square miles of accessible forests, only a little more than half is likely to be left for forest production, and this will be on the steeper, drier and less fertile sites. Viewing this situation of less area and lower site quality, some foresters question whether many tropical regions will be able to satisfy even their own local needs.

So we face the economic paradox that while the wood-consuming nations look to the Tropics to relieve future wood scarcities, the quantity and quality of tropical wood-producing lands are being whittled away at ever-increasing speeds.

No man can say how widespread will be the elimination of forests to make place for farming, cattle-raising, and urban development, but present trends threaten the loss of vast areas.

The need for food is the prime factor in forest clearing, but there are other causes. One is the rising tide of individual land ownership among the newer nations. In Africa, especially, where communal ownership was once common among the tribes, the trend toward individual ownership is cutting land into fragments so small that forest management becomes impracticable.

Caught in the upsurge of swelling populations and increased food demands, even lands previously set aside by governmental proclamation as permanent forests are being thrown open to agriculture or are occupied by squatters and shifting cultivators. Uncertain as to the future of these "permanent" forests, management becomes a mischancey affair where foresters are forced to labor under the ever-present shadow of losing the very areas that support management and research.

Here one finds an almost total lack of integration between forest and national policies. But forest policy cannot be developed in isolation for it is part of the structure of Government itself. To this end, foresters merit an essential voice in creating national policy wherever forests and forest soils are involved. This will not and should not stop the loss of land from forestry wherever other uses promise higher permanent values, but it should reduce the land-use uncertainties that are now making a shambles of management. -- T.G.

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Forestry Library on Microfilm: The Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Oxford, England, is now making available in microfilm the contents of the Institute's vast assemblage of the world's important forestry literature. The Oxford Card Catalog of World Forestry Literature, published in microfilm, lists the items now available for purchase. Libraries that could never hope to obtain major coverage of forestry publications can now possess, in microfilm form, what hitherto only a very few of the world's great forestry centers were able to enjoy. The price is being kept as low as possible and one may select material in fields of special interest. Schools and libraries in developing countries and others interested in extending their coverage may avail themselves of this unique service by writing to the Microfilm Unit, Department of Forestry, Commonwealth Forestry Institute, University of Oxford.

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Honors to ISTF Members: Paul Zehngraff, veteran AID forester, has received the award of Star of Service from the President of Pakistan. This is one of the highest honors bestowed by that country and the first to be given an AID technician.

Kenneth Sargent is now Secretary to the Ministry of Development and Planning of Malawi, with the responsibility of directing the economic development of that country.

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Publications: COMMERCIAL TIMBERS OF THE WORLD, by F. H. Titmuss. This is, in effect, a third edition, revised and enlarged, of "An Encyclopaedia of World Timbers", published by The Technical Press Ltd., 112 Westbourne Grove, London, W.2. Price - 63 shillings.

A new list has been issued of publications and mimeographed educational material of the forestry program of the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica. This list follows the Oxford Decimal System for classification of forestry literature.

PLANNING OF CONTROL MEASURES FOR FOREST PESTS IN LATIN AMERICA, by A. Paramanov and J. Ramirez Sanchez, issued as a bulletin of the Latin American Forestry Institute, Merida, Venezuela. A guide for foresters of Latin America in planning pest surveys for early detection and appraisal.

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Meetings: A World Symposium on Man-Made Forests and Their Industrial Importance, together with a Eucalyptus Study Tour, will be held in Australia, April-May 1967. The field will be divided into five Sections: I-Policy; II-Silviculture; III-Management; IV-Utilization; V-Integration of Planning and Financing.

The Executive Committee of the Latin American Forestry Institute at Merida, Venezuela, will hold its meeting in Lima, Peru, during the early part of 1967.

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The FAO Subcommittee on Teak has scheduled its next meeting for the Spring of 1967. The date has not yet been fixed, but will probably be just before or after the Symposium on Man-Made Forests to be held in Australia.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations will meet at the University of Munich, in Germany, 4-9 September 1967. The meeting will be followed by excursions from 10-24 September. Correspondence concerning the Congress should be sent to Munich 13, Amalienstr. 52, West Germany.

The International Union of Societies of Foresters will probably convene in Munich just preceding or following the IUFRO meeting.

The Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, created by FAO in 1966, has been tentatively scheduled to meet in Rome on or about 16-20 October. This places the meeting of the Tropical Committee just before that of FAO's Technical Committee on Forestry and Forest Products, and should facilitate forestry delegates in attending both meetings. A later issue of the News Notes will carry the final date and further information.

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Forestry Society in Brazil: Late last year, at Vicosa, Brazil's first professional forestry society was created - the Sociedade Mineira de Engenheiros Florestais. It is a state society, consisting of academically-trained Brazilian foresters. The program of the Society includes development of the new forestry profession and the founding of a national forestry society.

-- "Mensagens da Mata"

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Opening for Chair of Forestry: Applications have been invited by the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, to fill the foundation Chair of Forestry. Initially, the appointee will spend some time studying trends in forestry education, particularly at some newly established overseas forestry schools.

The New Zealand Institute of Forestry proposes to set up a Register of Forest Consultants and has called for applications for enrollment.

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Tree Planting and Banana Growing in the Caribbean Region: A successful method of regeneration by combining bananas with tropical tree species has been carried out on the Island of Granada. Spacing is about 12' x 12' for both species. The trees have made tremendous growth during the first few years, largely because of the heavy application of fertilizers to the bananas. After the third year, they have overgrown and suppressed the banana trees. An important advantage of this method is that the revenue from the bananas more than pays the costs of afforestation.

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Fuelwood: Fuelwood still accounts for one-half of the wood used in the world today. In Africa and Latin America, nearly 90% of all wood used is for fuel. In Asia (excluding Japan), a comparative figure is about 65%. In Europe and Russia, it is more than 25%, and in North America, 10%. The per-capita use is gradually declining, but the expansion of rural populations in the developing countries means an over-all increase in their demand to 1975 and beyond.

-- "Commonwealth Forestry Review"

German foresters have a saying, "Wood is too valuable a material to burn."

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Inadequacy of Training Programs: At the specialized session on Forestry and Forest Products, held in Madrid during the VI World Forestry Congress, it was stressed that training programs in the United States or other advanced countries cannot meet the needs of foresters in tropical areas. Research and training facilities in the advanced countries cannot be made adequate for the needs of developing countries, particularly those with tropical forests; yet few of the less-developed countries can possibly establish and support adequate forestry educational and research facilities on a strictly national basis. The need was felt for an international school for tropical forestry.

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Tropical Trees for Plantations: To obtain preliminary information about species (apart from pines) which have been tried and found promising in plantation practices, the Commonwealth Forestry Institute sent questionnaires to a number of countries in the tropics. The results have been summarized in an interim report by C. J. W. Pitt, and published in No. 123 of the "Commonwealth Forestry Review". On the basis of reported rates of growth and for the purposes for which species have proved suitable, short lists have been drawn up of the most promising "probables" and "possibles". The next stage in this study will be to prepare short notes on the silvicultural requirements and the suitability for various end uses of species mentioned in the lists. It is hoped to initiate more intensive investigations into the silviculture (including provenance and genetics) and the properties and utilization of the most important and promising species for widespread planting in the tropics.

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The Forestry Division of FAO is now responsible for 42 of the U.N. Development Program projects. Four, in Chile, Morocco, Honduras and Turkey, are concluded. The value of these projects is roughly \$35,000,000.00.

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