

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.  
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NEWS NOTES NO. 23

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World Forestry Congresses of Tomorrow: One of the major recurrent tasks of FAO is sponsorship of world forestry congresses. To this task, FAO has brought an active and effective leadership with the result that each succeeding congress assumes greater importance. Among a host of other benefits, they have served as measurable milestones of progress and added substantially to forestry literature.

But their very success raises problems, and in an effort to clarify objectives, FAO plans to review the function and design of forestry congresses with members of the Technical Forestry Committee at its next meeting in Rome on 23 October.

Among questions to be considered are: What do we wish to accomplish with a world forestry congress? Are the various alternative purposes of a congress consistent with each other? Should the program cover the whole range of forestry and forest industry problems or is a limitation to some topic of a general interest to be preferred? Should contributions and interventions be open to everyone or should an exclusive invitation procedure be adopted? How should documentation and meetings most effectively be organized?

There can be little question as to the desirability of continuing the congresses but fundamental to their success would seem to be the solution of how to deal with the mounting numbers of participants, the already staggering mass of documentation and the growing complexity of the agendas. To this end, many tropical foresters suggest holding a Tropical Forestry Congress immediately before the World Congress. Others believe that an entirely separate Tropical Congress would relieve the World Congress of unwieldy numbers and provide time for the consideration of tropical forestry more commensurate with its growing stature. Still others, on the other hand, feel that much of the benefits of world congresses would be sacrificed by such fragmentation. Yet the fact does remain that recent congresses have assigned less and less time to tropical forestry despite its increasing complexity and economic importance.

Whatever the outcome, FAO's intention to discuss with member Governments the fundamentals of world forestry congresses holds definite promise of providing rational structural blueprints for further meetings. To tropical nations it should present an opportunity to lay before the Committee the need for more adequate coverage of a major branch of forestry. -- T. G.

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FAO Tropical Forestry Committee: The most promising development for tropical forestry in recent years has been the creation by FAO of a Committee on Forestry Development in the Tropics. Its first meeting is to be held in Rome, 18-20 October 1967.

To date, the following 21 countries have accepted Committee membership: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Gabon, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand, U.K., U.S.A., Venezuela, Zambia.

The agenda for the session is expected to include items on

1. Research and policy action required to control shifting cultivation.
2. Techniques and practices to maximise economic returns in natural tropical forests.
3. Transformation of areas of lowland tropical forest into industrial plantations: economic and technical possibilities.

This initial meeting will also give Committee members opportunity to establish a future program of work and operational procedures.

The creation of the new Committee does not imply any weakening of the importance of the Regional Commissions. Its relationship with them will be one of equal partnership: the work of the Regional Forestry Commissions should be invaluable to the new Committee whose worldwide view will, in turn, assist the Commissions in advising on forest policy formulation and implementation of regional plans.

Tropical foresters of both hemispheres have long voiced the need for an agency that would provide continuing and systematic attention to tropical forestry on a world basis. To this need FAO has responded by establishing the present Committee. It now becomes the responsibility of all tropical member nations to assure the Committee's attainment of its full potential.

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Forest Inventory in Africa: Developing nations of West Africa are in process of determining total resources of their tropical forests, using universal forest inventory techniques. This is the first time that these techniques have been employed in West Africa to determine total wood volume of all species.

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Fiji's Forestry Development Plan - 1966-70: Fiji's forestry development plan of the next five years emphasizes that forestry is one of the main sectors offering scope in the long-term for industrial development in that country. One of the promising possibilities is pulp production based on plantations of pinus caribaea.

Publications

DICTIONARY OF FORESTRY (German, English, French, Spanish, Russian), compiled by Professor Johannes Weck. American Elsevier Publishing Co., New York City. Price - \$34.00. The DICTIONARY gives more than 10,000 terms for use in research and forestry practice.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF PALMS, by E. J. H. Corner, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. Price - \$12.95. An exhaustive work on this immensely important family. An excellent reference book.

PULPING PROPERTIES OF PINUS CARIBAEA, by A. E. Chittenden, G. C. Jarman, E. R. Palmer and J. F. Hughes. A guide to the range of pulping quality that may be expected with this species, together with suggestions for further research. -- "Commonwealth Forestry Review"

BASIC LIBRARY LIST FOR FORESTRY, edited by E. T. Hemmings, Commonwealth Forestry Institute, University of Oxford. Price 7s. 6d. This should be an invaluable aid in the selection of basic literature for building up a forestry library. Brief notes have been included to help the user assess the contents of a work more fully.

MANUAL OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY, edited by Morris M. Thompson, two volumes, published by George Banta Co., Menasha, Wisconsin. Price - \$22.50. The most complete work on this subject.

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Meetings

International Union of Forest Research Organizations  
Congress will be held in Munich from 4-9 September 1967. Between 10-23 September, excursions are being arranged covering the entire territory of the Federal Republic, in addition to various specified excursions.

The FAO Technical Committee on Forestry and Forest Products will meet in Rome, 23 October 1967. This meeting follows within a few days the first meeting of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, 18-20 October 1967.

International Union of Societies of Foresters:  
A meeting of the officers and Governing Committee will be held in Munich 31 August, 1 September 1967.

North American Forestry Commission of FAO will meet in Mexico City 2-7 October 1967.

Latin American Forestry Commission will meet 4-8 December 1967 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

A new method of site preparation was tested at the Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico, to reduce planting costs, of which site preparation is a substantial part. The method obviated hand labor. Brush areas were treated with picloram at a rate of 3.4 kg. acid equivalent per hectare, using a mist blower. Costs, although high (\$172.00) per hectare) were only half as great as with hand labor. Over half the cost of the new method is the herbicide. Results were impressive. Nine months after treatment planted trees were still free of competing brush, grass, and vine regrowth. The Institute is continuing research on small plots to find longer-lasting herbicides which will control weeds but not hinder tree growth.

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Forestry Reorganization in Brazil: With the change of Brazilian presidents on March 15, a new governmental organization law took effect. Two forestry agencies will be united in a single autonomous unit, the Brazilian Institute for Forestry Development (IBDF). This organization will be responsible for national parks, forest research, extension and administration of federal forest properties. It will also enforce game and other conservation laws. -- "Mensagens da Mata"

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The Forestry and Wildlife Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru has established a new forest research station within the Iparia national forest. Individuals or institutions interested in making collections of plants or animals in a rain forest area, or in studying tropical biology in its various aspects on a more permanent basis, may use the facilities providing previous arrangements are made with the Forest Service.

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