

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.
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NEWS NOTES NO. 29

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Second Session of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics is the subject of a 162-page report issued by the Forestry Department of FAO. Meeting in Rome, 21-24 October 1969, the session was attended by 19 countries and four international organizations. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Krit Samapuddhi (Thailand); Vice Chairmen, J. Ponce Diaz (Cuba), R. Catinot (France), and J. H. Francois (Ghana); Rapporteur, F. H. Wadsworth (USA); Secretary, L. Gimenez-Quintana (FAO); Assistant Secretary, Aung Din (FAO).

In welcoming the Committee, Dr. V. K. Steenberg, Director of the then Division of Forestry and Forest Industries, said, "There is an urgent need for redefining our basic philosophy with regard to forest development in the tropics. Which of the policy alternatives or combinations of alternatives should countries follow? Should we concentrate our efforts on the utilization aspects of forestry? Should we, if it is possible to do so without economic sacrifice, replace the natural forests with man-made forests? Should we pin our faith in the new processes and leave the natural forests as they are, with confidence that the weeds of today will be the economic species of tomorrow? I hope that members of this Committee will think about these things and will advise us on the possibility of undertaking an unbiased analysis of the present state, and the future, of tropical forestry. We need to know your views as to the direction in which applied research on tropical forestry should be oriented, in the light of market trends and of scientific progress in both the biological and non-biological fields that are applicable to forestry."

A number of recommendations were made by the Committee. In regard to shifting agriculture, it was recommended that FAO complete its study on this problem for review by the Committee at its next session. Meanwhile, member countries were urged to collect data of a social, economic and technical nature, leading to comprehensive land-use plans with the ultimate purpose of transforming shifting cultivation to a permanent form of agriculture.

The continuing need for management planning was stressed and the Committee recommended that FAO continue and if possible expand its efforts to encourage countries to collect management-plan data, formulate plans, and conduct related forestry research.

The Committee emphasized the need for member countries to give greater attention to the collection and dissemination of information on the costs of tropical savanna plantations. Other recommendations were directed toward wildlife and national parks, marketing and utilization research. The Committee also requested that FAO approach

IUFRO with the purpose of undertaking in conjunction a detailed analysis of the problem of collecting, collating and disseminating results of research on the properties and utilization of tropical woods.

In conclusion, the Committee recommended that three broad fields of activity important to forestry development should receive equal and special attention: (1) tree improvement, including provenance trials, tree breeding and the collection and distribution of tree seeds; (2) cost-benefit studies of all aspects of tropical forestry, including the non-wood services of forests; and (3) market research, with particular reference to the less-known tropical woods.

The report covers in detail the discussions and recommendations made by the Committee, and includes a number of timely Committee papers. It is an important addition to the current literature on tropical forestry.

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Proposal for a Tropical Timber Bureau: The creation of a Tropical Timber Bureau was first proposed in 1966 by a UNCTAD/FAO Working Party on Forest and Timber Products. Two years later, the Working Party recommended that the Bureau be established with autonomous branches in Europe and North America. The Bureau would be concerned with the collection and exchange of information on the various markets and their requirements, and on the properties, uses and availability of tropical forest products. It would not engage in commercial activities, but should deal with methods of coordination and information, and give particular emphasis to wider use of lesser-known species. The administrator of the UNDP has agreed that a Tropical Timber Bureau would play an important role in the further utilization of the forest resources of tropical countries. In pursuing further the recommendations of this Working Party, a note will be sent to all developing countries interested in participating in this proposed project.

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Proceedings of the International Conference on Tropical Hardwoods, held last year at Syracuse, New York, have now been published. A limited number of copies of the 562-page book are available for \$10.00, and may be ordered from the Office of Public Service, College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210. These Proceedings include conclusions and recommendations made during the conference concerning tropical hardwood supplies and imports.

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A Symposium on Fertility of Tropical Soils will be held at New Delhi, India, February 1971.

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A Regional Consultation on the Development of the Forest and Pulp and Paper Industries in Latin America was held in May, in Mexico City. Its purpose was to examine the problems and opportunities for developing the pulp and paper industries and other wood-based industries in Latin America. Twenty countries were represented by official delegations and additional countries by observers. In preparation for the consultation, a number of background papers were prepared which summarized the situation for each of the major topics. These papers, plus the final report of the consultation, presumably will be published shortly by the sponsoring agencies.

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The introduction of mycorrhizal fungi has shown dramatic results in Australia, Africa, the Russian steppes and the Caribbean Islands. One of the best documented examples recently occurred in Puerto Rico. For about 20 years, seeds had been imported in attempts to establish pine on that island. The seedlings grew in nursery beds to a few inches in height, displayed symptoms of extreme phosphorus deficiency, stagnated and died. In 1955, a member of the U.S. Forest Service introduced soil inoculum from a stand of pine growing in southeastern United States, to an experimental plot of slash pine seedlings in the Puerto Rican mountains. Within three years, the effects were dramatic. Uninoculated plants were no more than 12 inches tall, while in contrast inoculated plants had reached heights up to eight feet and were thrifty and fully needled. Thereafter, all seedlings planted on the island have been inoculated. The Honduras strain of Caribbean pine now grows so successfully that it is not uncommon for the tree to grow ten feet in one year. - Edward Hacszylo, JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, S.A.F.

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Proceedings of the Symposium on Forests and Forest-Based Industries have been published by the Society of Indian Foresters. This Symposium, organized for the first time on a national level, was held at the Forest Research Institute, in Dehra Dun, India. It was attended by more than 200 delegates representing the forest-based industries, state forest department and research workers. Eighty-six papers were presented. The Society hopes that the Symposium will form a nucleus for future activities to stimulate rapid industrial development of forest resources.

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Nigerian foresters will launch a national forestry society in October 1970. Membership is open to all practicing foresters, the timber industry and trade and forestry institutions. To inaugurate the creation of the society, a conference will be held at the University of Ibadan, from 6-9 October.

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Publications

A DIRECTORY OF HEADS OF FOREST ADMINISTRATIONS has recently been published by the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations. This comprehensive and up-to-date directory is available on application to the Forestry Department, FAO, Rome, Italy.

FERTILIZING EUCALYPTS ON BRAZILIAN SAVANNA SOILS, in the March issue of the COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY REVIEW, describes the first and second-year results of fertilization on the sandy, red savanna soils in Brazil. The study was made by Douglas Knudson, Joseph E. Yahner and Helio Correa. Increasing interest in savanna forestry gives added importance to this careful and well-organized study. One of the conclusions is that fertilization can compensate for most or all of its own cost in the first year, by permitting reduction of tending costs. Through shortening the rotation and producing higher volumes, fertilization can be expected to produce a higher net return to the total plantation investment.

THE LIFE OF THE JUNGLE, by Paul W. Richards. Those who have read Richards' magnificent TROPICAL RAIN FOREST will be interested in this author's recent addition to forestry literature. The book contains 232 pages and 100 color photographs and drawings. It is a profusely illustrated description of the world of the tropical rain forest, its flora and fauna and its delicate balance of life. Price - \$4.95, McGraw-Hill, New York, U.S.A.

INVESTIGACION DE LOS RECURSOS FISICOS PARA EL DESARROLLO ECONOMICO, published by the Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. Price - \$10.00, 463 pgs. A practical compendium of the experience of a team of specialists of the OAS engaged in the design and execution of development-oriented natural resources surveys. The publication is designed as a tool for use in in-service training and specialized courses to improve the working capabilities of technicians with limited field experience..

The third and last volume of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS is now available by writing to Sexto Congreso Forestal Mundial, Direccion General de Montes, Ministerio de Agricultura, Paseo de Infanta Isabel, 1, Madrid - 16, Spain.

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About Us: ISTF membership at the time of this News Note has reached a record high of about 500 members, representing 55 countries. Following the USA, Great Britain with 54 members has the largest enrollment. The Philippines follow with 42, India 20, Netherlands 18, Germany 17, Brazil 15 and Malaysia 10.

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