

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.
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NEWS NOTES NO. 25

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The Soaring Costs of Ignorance: One of the hazards in dealing with forests and forest lands is that blunders are not easily concealed or readily cured.

No one can even estimate the sums that have been lost in ventures based on insufficient knowledge, but they must exceed by many-fold the cost of the research that could have prevented them.

The tropics are dotted with these mistakes. The dollars wasted in the Amazon on rubber cultivation might have been prevented by pilot studies. UNESCO's "hylean program" in the same region failed through lack of sufficient knowledge. "Colonization", that word beloved of many governments, has too often achieved nothing more than waste of timber and destruction of soils which elementary studies would have shown were unfit for agriculture. Much forest legislation, itself, has been based on faulty assumptions rather than on facts that research could have revealed.

With some notable exceptions, the funds spent on research in the tropics bear small relation to the values involved -- values in terms of forests, soil, water and human occupancy. Even in days when forest products had far less value, and forest land seemed endlessly abundant, losses from misdirected efforts were substantial enough. Today, with pressure for land by competing uses becoming ever greater, ignorance may tip the scales against forest management.

The increasing trend toward tree plantations gives special point to the need for a body of facts that only research can provide. Plantations are expensive and when they fail they damage the forestry program far more than failures of management in the old forest. And we have had failures enough. Plantations of cedrilla and chlorophora have had to be abandoned because of insect attack. Plantations have failed because the species were ill-adapted to new conditions. In Nigeria, species that thrived in the natural forest were found useless in plantations.

If plantation practice is to approach its possibilities, there is much to learn in producing better nursery stock at low cost, much to learn in how to improve species through genetics, and how to control invading vegetation, insects and disease.

Throughout the tropics of both hemispheres, competing demands for forest soils give added significance to the warning of Wadsworth, "If tropical forests are to persist and to develop in the face of other prospective land uses, we must have much more knowledge with which to demonstrate their productive potential -- and we need it soon."

--- T. G.

International Union of Societies of Foresters: The IUSF plans to hold its initial Congress in Washington, D. C., August 18-19, 1969. Host to the Congress will be the Society of American Foresters, a charter member of the Union.

Two half-day plenary sessions are planned which will be open to all delegates. The International Council of the Union and the Governing Committee will also hold two meetings. Included in the agenda is the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of officers and members of the Governing Committee. Plenary sessions will feature opening ceremonies and include reports from the four standing committees, (a) Educational Standards for Professional Foresters, (b) Personal Professional Advancement for Society Members, (c) Responsibility of the Profession to the Public, and (d) Membership.

The date for the Congress is planned to immediately follow the Second Consultation on Forest Tree Breeding, also to be held in Washington, D. C., August 7-16, 1969.

The International Union was organized during the VI World Forestry Congress in Madrid and is composed of national forestry societies whose memberships are based primarily on professional qualifications attained through university or college education. The purpose of the Union is to advance the progress, standards, and effectiveness of foresters by means of their societies throughout the world. Its activities include seeking higher educational standards for professional foresters, determining ways by which member societies can increase their usefulness in securing personal professional advancement for their members, and functioning on an international basis in the interest of the forestry profession.

National societies may obtain information regarding both the Union and the Congress by writing the Executive Director, Apt. 841, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005.

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World Symposium on Man-Made Forests: Mention of this Symposium was made in our last news note. Subsequently, it has been the subject of FAO's UNASYLVA, Volume 21 (3-4). A total of 104 papers have been contributed to this Symposium and the agenda is divided into five sections. A number of recommendations were endorsed under the general headings of "Statistical", "Policy", "Silviculture", "Management", "Utilization", "Integration of Planning and Financing". The UNASYLVA account will be of particular interest to those countries planning large-scale forest plantations.

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Trees in Difficult Sites: Continuing interest in this subject is being shown by members who are considering the establishment of tree plantations. In this connection, Elbert A. Schory, Sr., Tropical Research Forester for the Board of Forestry in Florida, USA, has compiled two lists; (1) salt tolerant, cold hardy, drought resistant trees for North Florida, and (2) salt tolerant trees for South Florida. Information included in these two lists may be of use in other sections where similar conditions prevail. Copies may be obtained free of charge from the Florida Forest Service, Collins Building, Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Schory has also expressed his willingness to answer correspondents working on similar problems.

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Jobs, Anyone? Each year, ISTF receives inquiries from various organizations seeking to employ tropical foresters to fill vacancies or undertake studies or industrial enterprises. In many cases we have been able to suggest the names of qualified Society members with satisfactory results. However, our information regarding these qualifications is usually based on data supplied in the application forms. These are often five or more years old.

It would be useful if members who are available for positions would send in up-dated information which would include field of specialization, experience, language proficiencies, geographical preference, and minimum acceptable salary.

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Publications

PLANNING OF FORESTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRIES IN TROPICAL REGIONS: This report is the result of a seminar held in Manila in late 1967, under the auspices of the German Foundation for Developing Countries. Over 15 countries were represented and German forestry and forest products experts, as well as experts from FAO, gave industrial lectures on selected topics. The basic patterns of these lectures are included in the report. The publication covers 20 subjects, including forest policy and development planning, pattern of wood supply, basic studies and statistical requirements for forestry and forest industries, problems of financing forest development, planning for research and education. Inquiries regarding availability of the report should be made to H. Esche, German Foundation for Developing Countries, Berlin, Germany.

DE L'AGRICULTURE ITINÉRANTE A L'AGRICULTURE INTENSIFIÉE, by F. Jurion and J. Henry, is the latest and most exhaustive study of shifting agriculture in all of forestry literature. Numbering almost 500 pages, it is a publication of the National Institute of Agronomic Study of the Congo. Fully illustrated, including a large number of tables and excellent bibliography, this publication takes precedent over all former studies of the problem of shifting agriculture. Further information can be obtained by writing the National Institute of Agronomic Study of the Congo, 1, rue Defacqz, Brussels 5, Belgium.

ARBOLES COMUNES DE PUERTO RICO Y DE ISLAS VIRGENES, by Elbert L. Little, F. H. Wadsworth, and Jose Marrero. Covering 827 pages, with 48 colored illustrations, this impressive publication describes 250 common native and introduced tree species in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Price - \$12.00. May be obtained by writing Editorial, U.P.R., Apdo. X, San Juan, P.R. 00931. An English version, in cloth, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. Price-\$4.25.

BOLETIN NO. 25 of the INSTITUTO FORESTAL LATINO-AMERICANO, Merida, Venezuela, includes an examination of the possibilities of pinus caribaea Morelet for pulpwood. The pulp from this species was notably superior in tearing resistance in comparison with the kraft pulps from North America and Europe. The variety hondurensis has been recommended as suitable raw material for the future production of long-fibered pulps. This species has also been studied by D. E. Etheridge, whose preliminary observations appear in the March '68 issue of "The Commonwealth Forestry Review".

THE ROLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, by J. J. Lawrie, "Commonwealth Forestry Review", March 1968. The author was formerly Editor and Secretary of the Commonwealth Forestry Association, under whose effective leadership the Association has made important contributions to forestry. He has now resigned his post to accept an FAO appointment in Cameroon. His article gives emphasis to ways in which the Commonwealth Forestry Association may fulfill its role in furthering forestry and industries dependent on forest production. Much of the discussion is applicable to regional and international organizations.

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Meetings

Second World Consultation on Forest Tree Breeding, sponsored by FAO and IUFRO, will be held in Washington, D.C., USA, August 7-16, 1969, USA as host. Study tours are planned for both prior to and following the meeting. Further information may be had by writing Dr. John C. Barber, Div. of Timber Mgmt. Research, Forest Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. 20250.