

Forestry and Wood Update…………………………February 2003 - Volume 3 Issue 2

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**COFORD**

Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Tel: (01) 7167700 Fax: (01) 7161180

Email: info@coford.ie Web: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

COFORD’s Activities are funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan, 2000-2006.



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This newsletter was compiled and edited by
Lauren MacLennan, Technology Transfer Co-ordinator.
Email: lauren.maclennan@coford.ie

# Additions to COFORD Website

Over the last month there has been a revamp of the links and the glossary sections of the COFORD website. The glossary now contains definitions of over 600 terms, presented in two separate listings. For the glossary of forestry terms, visit <http://www.coford.ie/glossary/default.html> and for the glossary of timber and wood terms visit <http://www.coford.ie/glossary/timberwood.html>. If you would like to suggest any additions or amendments, contact Lauren.maclennan@coford.ie, with the term and definition.

Our links section now contains links to 252 different websites sorted by category. This is one of the most comprehensive lists of forestry and timber web links now available on the Internet. We welcome suggestions on further links. The links section can be found at <http://www.coford.ie/links/links.html>.

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# New product search facility on the WOODSPEC website

In response to numerous requests from architects and specifiers, COFORD has added a new function to the WOODSPEC website. Users can now identify stockists of a range of timber products with a user-friendly product search facility. All of the main timber traders are listed, along with all of the wood products they hold in stock. Searches can be conducted by county or by product category. Results are presented with links to the contact details of the stockists. WOODSPEC is moving closer to becoming a ‘one-stop-shop’ for all timber specification needs - visit [www.coford.ie/woodspec/search/search.html](http://www.coford.ie/woodspec/search/search.html).

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# Future prospects for wood biomass

As the work of COFORD’s Wood for Energy Strategy Group nears completion, attention is focused on the imminent launch of the next round of the Alternative Energy Requirement (AER VI). Prospective generators of electricity from renewable sources will be invited to make a formal application to build, own and operate new plant and to supply electricity to the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) of up to fifteen years.

The AER programme is the Irish Government’s method of awarding contracts to energy generators to help meet Kyoto and Renewable Energy targets. Five AER competitions have been held since the programme was launched in 1995. The technologies supported to date include wind energy (mainly), small-scale hydropower, combined heat and power (CHP) and biomass.

In February last year the results of the most recent competition, AER V, were announced. The published target was 265 MW. Due to the quality and volume of the applications submitted and the need to provide for unforeseen project retirements, the support cap was increased to 355 MW. These projects will be built during 2003 or 2004. However, despite the increase to AER V, no generation capacity based on wood biomass was installed.

Mr Dermot Ahern, Minister of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, has given an indication as to what we can expect in AER VI. In his speech to the Clean Air conference in Carrick-on-Shannon, the Minister stated that up to 25 MW would be offered to biomass projects at a maximum price of €0.06412/kWh. A number of proposals involving wood biomass are being prepared for AER VI. It is likely that the successful projects will be announced by the end of March.

In a submission to the Department, COFORD outlined the potential energy that could be generated from wood biomass in Ireland, largely from sawmill residues, recovered wood (from construction and demolition activity) and thinnings from the private sector. We also indicated the power production costs of a range of technologies, by way of aiding the department’s final decision on the detail of AER VI.

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# First BIHIP Management Committee Meeting in Ireland

The Management Committee of the British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme (BIHIP) met recently at Greystones, Co Wicklow. This was the first time that the committee had met in Ireland.

Delegates representing the different species working groups travelled from the UK to the meeting, which was followed by a field visit to a native oak provenance trial at Camolin Co Wexford, led by Dr David Thompson, Research and Environment, Coillte, and Mr Derek Felton, Woodstock Seed. The field trip also included with a visit to Coillte’s Ballintemple Nursery and Seed Store. There the group was met by Mr Pat Long (General Manager Coillte Nurseries), Mr Ned Morrissey (Nursery Manager), Mr Michael Doyle (Production Manager) and Mr Pat Doody (Seed Manager). A guided tour of the broadleaf production area of the nursery and the seed store was laid on.

The Management Committee meeting is held once a year and deals with the internal workings of BIHIP. This meeting was sponsored by COFORD, and had on its agenda items such as the annual progress of its species working groups, field programmes for 2003 and funding matters. The meeting also announced an International Tree Improvement Conference to be hosted jointly by BIHIP and the Royal Forestry Society of England at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, England, on 4 March 2004. Details will be presented in a future issue of the COFORD newsletter.

Most working groups reported significant progress during 2002. A new working group on sycamore was formally launched at the meeting. The group will be under the chairmanship of Dr Michael Carey.

The meeting was very successful and the visitors reported a positive view of Irish forestry.

For further information on BIHIP please contact John Fennessy, COFORD Research Programme Manager (Tree Improvement and Non-wood Forest Products).

Email: John.Fennessy@coford.ie.

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# Carbon Corner

The European Commission launched the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) in June 2000. The goal of the ECCP is to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. Under the second phase of the ECCP (2002-2003) a Working Group on Forest-Related Sinks was established with the objective of assessing the potential contribution of EU Member States’ forests to achieving the overall EU greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 8% on 1990 levels. (Those familiar with the National Climate Change Strategy will recall that the Irish target is the 1990 level, plus 13%, allocated under an EU burden-sharing arrangement.) A further objective was to identify appropriate policy instruments for achieving this potential during the first commitment period (2008-2010). A full outline of the mandate of the working group is available from the website <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/forest_sinks_mandate.pdf>.

The working group has examined the potential of activities under Articles 3.3 (afforestation, reforestation and deforestation) and 3.4 (forest management, cropland management and grazing land management) to contribute to the achievement of the EU’s greenhouse gases targets. In so far as there is no cap on Article 3.3 activities, their net contribution (taking into account deforestation) is difficult to quantify. However, given that the annual rate of increase in forest cover in the EU over the decade 1990-2000 was about 340,000 ha (plantations plus succession) the potential is considerable and could be of the order of 15 million t CO2 per annum.

There is also considerable net uptake of carbon in Europe’s other forests, aside from areas that have been afforested since 1990. Wood removals are generally well below increment (of the order of 60-70%), deforestation is not significant, and as result carbon pools in biomass and soils are steadily accumulating.

Under the Kyoto Protocol and its Marrakesh Accords there is provision for countries to use these net changes (discounted to factor out indirect human-induced changes) in carbon stocks that result from forest management since 1990, in order to meet their greenhouse gas emission requirements. These have been capped for each country. The amounts are set out in an appendix to the forestry part of the Marrakesh Accords (see the UNFCCC web site [www.unfccc.de](http://www.unfccc.de), document FCCC/CP/L.13/Add.1). For the EU15, they amount to 19 million t of CO2 per annum. It is unclear, however, how much of this amount will be used to meet compliance, as few member states have declared to what extent they will use forest management credits. Readers of Carbon Corner will recall that the Irish amount is 50,000 t carbon per annum, a figure which was derived based on growth and harvesting patterns in recent years.

The EU working group has now almost completed its task and its report is expected shortly. A report on a workshop convened under the auspices of the group can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/conclusions_forest_sinks_workgroup.pdf>. This gives some idea of the likely scope of the report.

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# Sustainable Heat from Wood Fuels

The Renewable Energy Information Office of SEI has just published two new documents entitled:

* Wood Fuels – for residential buildings, and
* Sustainable heat for public buildings

These two excellent publications provide a very clear and comprehensive overview of all of the issues needed to develop heat from wood biomass systems. They give case study examples of wood chip and wood pellet systems in operation in Austria. In particular they give examples of how a farm forester could become an energy provider. One hundred and eighty m3 of Sitka spruce chip could provide 140,000 kWh of heat generated from a small wood chip boiler. This means that an 8 ha plantation of Sitka spruce of average productivity could be used to supply all of the year-round heat requirements for 30 average- sized homes.Clearly, such projects, if developed in Ireland would greatly contribute to the sustainability of rural living, where locally sourced, carbon neutral, forest produce could be used to displace imported, fossils fuels which are daily adding to our greenhouse gas emissions.

The publication on public buildings outlines the potential contribution that wood-fuelled systems make to sustainable local development. COFORD has written to OPW outlining the advantages of heating public buildings with wood fuels and has offered to undertake a feasibility study on some such buildings to help convince those who cannot see past fossil fuels. It would seem appropriate that some forestry businesses and/or state departments should be the pioneers for this technology in Ireland and switch to wood fuels.

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# Hardwood trade in 2002

The publication HardwoodMarkets.com reports that 2002 was a very difficult year for the hardwood industry in North America and Western Europe, with numerous hardwood sawmills, veneer mills and furniture plants being forced to close permanently. However, in the global economy, plant closures in one region are usually the result of capacity expansion in lower cost economies. In the case of hardwood processing this means China, where processing facilities are being concentrated. This has led to strong growth in Chinese imports of raw logs and sawn lumber. Eastern Europe continues to record strong inward investment, which is leading to increased demand for hardwood products, particularly furniture.

The publication also reports a change in the sources of hardwood raw material. Malaysia, Indonesia and Cameroon have reduced production, as have America and western Europe. In terms of EU imports of tropical hardwoods, 2002 saw a decline of 19% in the value of logs and 12% in the value of sawn lumber imported. The EU15 also had reduced imports of American hardwoods (5% by volume) in the period January-September 2002 compared to the same period in 2001. For further information visit [www.hardwoodmarkets.com](http://www.hardwoodmarkets.com).

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# New COST Actions launched

The Forests and Forestry Products (FFP) Technical Committee of COST ([www.cordis.lu/cost](http://www.cordis.lu/cost)) will meet in Paris on February 19 and 20. Among the items to be discussed is the launch of two new COST Actions, numbered E34 and E35:

## E34 – Bonding of Timber

This Action was proposed by Dr Manfred Dunky of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, Dr Helena Cruz, LNEC, Lisbon and Dr Keith Maun, BRE, Watford. The objectives of the Action are:

* to improve the bonding of timber for a broad range of applications;
* to evaluate and examine the technical potential of bonding timber and wood;
* to broaden the knowledge base of the issues involved in the greater application of bonding techniques and practices;
* to improve the assessment procedures of systems of bonding.

Some of the basic topics that will be covered include:

* hardening and gelling behaviour of adhesives and resins;
* new and better analysis methods for adhesives, especially describing the suitability for bonding two surfaces and predicting the achievable bonding strength;
* basics of the adhesion process and the application of adhesives;
* bonding of various materials with wood.

As yet, there is no Irish involvement in this proposal. Any suitably qualified individual who wishes to join the management committee of this Action should contact the Irish representative on the Wood Technology Sector Group of COST-FFP, Mr Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager, COFORD (joe.ocarroll@coford.ie).

## E35 – Fracture Mechanics and Micromechanics of Wood and Wood Composites with Regard to Wood Machining

This Action was proposed by Prof. Stephanie Tschegg, University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna. The main objective of this Action is to achieve a better understanding of the relationship between wood structure at the cellular level (or the structure of the wood composites) and the mechanical, as well as the fracture performance, of wood machining at the macroscopic scale.

Ireland will be represented on the Management Committee by Mr Sean Moloney, Director, Wood Technology Centre, University of Limerick. Sean’s involvement will add further value to the COFORD-funded project that he undertook in 1999. That project successfully developed a routing profile which gave an excellent finish to homegrown lodgepole pine. The COST Actions will enable Sean to be involved in a European network that will continue to develop better machining technology to improve wood finishing characteristics.

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# COFORD Seminar:Managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber

COFORD announces the second in a series of events on growing and managing broadleaved trees and utilising Irish hardwood timber. This two-day meeting will be held in Kilkenny on 10 and 11 April 2003. Indoor morning sessions will take place at the Hotel Kilkenny. On the first day the morning session will include presentations by invited guest speakers on the establishment and management of broadleaf woodland. This will be followed by an afternoon field visit to sites where management issues will be demonstrated and discussed. The second day will concentrate on the utilisation of hardwoods: at the indoor morning session a number of invited speakers will present papers on the processing and joinery sector; followed by an afternoon visit to a processor and furniture manufacturer producing quality furniture and using only Irish hardwoods. More details will be given in the next issue of this newsletter. For further information contact COFORD (email: info@coford.ie).

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# UCD Students Forestry Society Inaugural Lecture

UCD Students Forestry Society presents its 2003 Inaugural Lecture on ***Sustainable Forest Management and Certification of Small Forest Enterprises in Ireland***. The event is sponsored by Glennon Bros Timber Ltd, and the speakers are:

**Miss Vicki Meredith** - Auditor of the Students Forestry Society;

**Mr Donal Whelan** - Technical Director, Irish Timber Growers Association;

**Mr Henry Phillips** – Professional Consultant.

The lecture will take place on Thursday 20 February 2003 at 7.30pm, in Room FS 01, Food Science Building, Faculty of Agriculture, UCD. For more information telephone 01-7167756/7776, Email: forsoc2003@hotmail.com, or visit <http://www.ucd.ie/~forsoc>

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# Scottish Forest Industries Cluster Second Conference: Sustainability and Innovation in Scotland’s Forest Industries

The second conference of the Scottish Forest Industry Cluster will be held on 26 and 27 March 2003 at Crieff Hydro, Perthshire, Scotland. The provisional programme involves the following:

* Developing wood technologies for new market applications - Ms Tuula Teeri (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Mr Philip Blazdell (Scientific Generics, Cambridge)
* Developing new products for timber engineering: - Dr Ban Seng Choo, Centre for Timber Engineering, Napier University
* The year in retrospect - Mr Stefan Kay OBE (Chairman Cluster Leadership Group)
* Learning from New Zealand - members of the Leadership Group

Delegates will have the option of choosing to attend two workshops, facilitated by members of the Leadership Group. These workshop sessions will cover:

* Process innovations
* New markets
* New products
* Forest resources

To attend the event, please contact Alison Hunter, Cluster Conference, FIDC, 53 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2HT; Tel: 0131 220 9296; Email: alison@fidc.org.uk.

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# FAO-ECE Forest Communicators Network Meeting

The 11th meeting of the FAO-ECE Forest Communicators Network (FCN) will be held in Edinburgh from 5 to 8 May 2003. The meeting will provide a unique forum for exchange of information and views on topical issues and strategic approaches concerning public relations in the forest and forest industries sector, presenting success stories and lessons learned, and building contacts and alliances with regard to forest related communications throughout the ECE region. The meeting is open to participants from both the governmental and the private sector in the ECE region, sharing the common objective of the network: working towards a positive image for the forest and forest industries sector. For more information please send an e-mail to ingwald.gschwandtl@bmlfuw.gv.at or visit <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/pr/pr.htm>

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# China International Wood-Forestry Fair

China International Wood-Forestry Fair (CWIF) will be held from 23 to 26 May 2003, as part of the 6th China Beijing International High-tech Expo.

Timber harvest from China's natural forests will be reduced greatly to ensure the healthy development of China’s natural forest. The Chinese government will limit the harvest of domestic natural forest to 51.46 million m3 of wood in 2002. The exploitation amount will decrease by 20% each year from 2002. According to statistics, the total wood demand of China in 2002 is 105 million m3. Over 12 million m3 were imported in the first half of the year, which was an increase of 535% over the same period last year. A large quantity of imported timber is needed to supplement the Chinese timber market shortage. In addition, since China's entry into the WTO, the Chinese government has decreased the rate of import tax on wood. All of these facts provide great opportunities for foreign timber firms to enter the Chinese market.

The CWIF is an opportunity to find out more about the market in China, to present new products and new technology, and to make contact with the end-users. More information is available on the website [www.ciwf.com.cn](http://www.ciwf.com.cn)

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# Forest engineering and AustroFoma meetings

A two-day forest engineering meeting is to be held in October 2003, in Schlaegl, Austria. This meeting is to be combined with the AustroFoma machine demonstration. A large international contingent of steep terrain harvesting specialists is expected at the meeting, with over 40 technical presentations. AustroFoma will have over 100 exhibitors and more than 20 live demonstrations. For more information, please contact Dr Karl Stampfer, Institut of Forest and Mountain Risk Engineering. University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, Peter Jordan Strasse 70/2, 1190 Vienna. Additional information can be obtained from the following web sites:
<http://members.surfeu.fi/otaniemi/network.htm>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/logistics-forest/>

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# Dynamics of Physiological Processes in Woody Roots

The Third International Symposium on Dynamics of Physiological Processes in Woody Roots will be held from 29 September to 3 October 2003, in Perth, Western Australia.

The previous symposia were very successful in focusing on physiological processes linking the soil-root plant continuum of woody-rooted species and in bringing together anatomists, ecologists, mycorrhizal researchers and physiologists. The understanding of below-ground tree physiology has made remarkable progress since the last meeting in 1999, because of rapid advances at the subcellular and molecular level and in modelling of root systems.

The main sessions of the meeting will be:

* Assimilate allocation and partitioning in roots
* Root growth, development and turnover
* Water flux
* Nutrient uptake and utilization
* Rhizosphere ecology/interactions

The major objectives of the 2003 symposium are to:

* present the latest advances in physiology and ecology of tree root systems through the main themes,
* better assess the impacts of environment disturbances on the whole tree function through root-specific physiological responses,
* encourage research collaborations between anatomists, ecologists, mycorrhizal researchers, tree physiologists, tree molecular biologists and rhizosphere microbiologists to better address the integrative nature of root system research, and
* identify priorities for future research in belowground tree physiology.

For more information, click on <http://www.botany.uwa.edu.au/woodyroots/>

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# Graduate Assistantships in Wood Products Business Management

The Wood Products Programme at Penn State University has one or more assistantships available for students seeking an M.S. or PhD, starting in the autumn of 2003. Students with backgrounds in any area of wood products, business, logistics, or industrial/organizational psychology may apply. Stipends are competitive and include full tuition waiver and office space.

A broad range of topics may be considered for the student's research, including: organizational strategy, safety improvement, organizational behavior, supply chain management and "change" management. For more information on Wood Products at Penn State please visit [www.sfr.cas.psu.edu](http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu). Interested persons should contact Dr Judd Michael by 1 March 2003.
Email: Jh-michael@psu.edu

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# Woodcarving Foundation Courses

Ben Russell is a professional woodworker in West Cork, a founder member of the West Cork Craft and Design Guild, and produces the woodcarving section of the *Practical Woodworking* magazine. He is offering three-day courses on woodcarving at his workshop in Cork: 5 – 7 March; 12 –14 March, 2 - 4 April, and 9 - 11 April. The course fee is €250. Call 027 66133 or email benr@esatclear.ie for more information.

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