

COFORD Forestry and Wood Update

April, 2002 Volume 2 Issue 4

## Editor: Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager

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# 1.Update on COFORD Activities

During March the COFORD Annual Report for 2001 was circulated to over 3,000 people throughout the forest industry in Ireland and abroad. The annual report covers details of all project funded by COFORD that commenced during 2001. Project updates will appear on the website.

Our seminar/workshop programme is taking shape:

On April 29th we will be holding a workshop on Innovative Wood Products (co-hosted with the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster).

On July 18/19th we will be holding a two-day conference on Wood for Energy in Carrick-on-Shannon, with the Renewable Energy Information Office of the Irish Energy Centre. The conference will include field visits to major users of wood biomass for energy generation and also to a whole-tree chipping demonstration. Further details will follow next month.

In October we will be holding a two-day conference on broadleaves and hardwood processing. The event will feature visits to a formative shaping operation on broadleaves and to a user of Irish hardwoods.

In November we will once again co-host the ITGA Annual Seminar. Further details will be issued over the summer.

We also plan to hold a conference on enhancing biodiversity through forest operations. This event will take place in Cork; a date has not yet been finalised.

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# 2. Timber Frame Housing Consortium

The appointment of the Timber Frame Housing 2002 Consortium to undertake an independent study relating to the use of timber frame housing in Irish conditions has been announced by the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, Robert Molloy TD.

Thirteen consultancy firms submitted tenders to undertake the study following a public advertisement for suitable consultants.

Anthony Reddy Associates, Architects and Planning Consultants lead the consortium that has been appointed to undertake the study. The other members of the Consortium are TRADA Technology Ltd, Coll + McCarthy Architects/John McCarthy Fire Safety Consultant, Arup Consultancy Engineers and Gardiner & Theobald (Ireland) Ltd.

In announcing the awarding of the contract the Minister stated: "I want to establish clearly the role of timber frame housing in Irish conditions." He continued, "There is a need to supplement traditional methods of housing provision in order to achieve the level of output envisaged in the National Development Plan."

The study will examine all aspects relating to the use of timber frame in Ireland, including private sector, local authority and voluntary housing. In particular, the study will examine whether changes are needed in the Technical Guidance and related documents in relation to the compliance of timber frame housing with the Building Regulations. The study is expected to take six months to complete.

The aims of the study are:

* to carry out a detailed examination of current practice and procedure in relation to the use of timber frame construction for private sector and social housing in Ireland and to make appropriate recommendations;
* to assess the impact of the current regulatory regime and related technical requirements on the provision of timber frame housing, and recommend any appropriate amendments to regulations, guidance or practice;
* to assess currently systems and practices in relation to quality control and product certification in timber frame housing construction at all stages up to the completed dwelling and recommend any appropriate improvements in procedures and practices.

The study is being undertaken in the context of the need to supplement traditional methods of housing provision in order to achieve the level of output envisaged in the National Development Plan 2000-2006, while ensuring quality construction satisfying functional requirements and fair competition in the industry.

The study will involve a detailed examination of current practice and procedure in relation to timber frame construction with a particular focus on its use in Irish conditions and will include consultation with appropriate organisation, professional bodies and representative groups, including consumers.

**The consortium is pleased to invite you to forward written documentation or proposals for areas of study** to the Timber Frame Consortium 2002, c/o Anthony Reddy Associates, Dartry Mills, Dartry Road, Dublin 6. Deadline for receipt of complete documentation is Monday, 22 April 2002. Envelopes to be clearly marked ‘Study on Timber Frame Housing’

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# 3. Innovation in Wood Products workshop

COFORD and The Scottish Forest Industries Cluster have identified the importance of innovation in expanding markets for homegrown timber. To address this issue, both organisations are hosting a workshop on Innovation in Wood Products and Processes. The workshop will be held in the Citywest Hotel, Saggart, **Dublin on** **April 29th** and in Edinburgh on April 30th.

The programme has now been finalised as follows:

Conceptualisation to Commercialisation Workshop:

*Innovation in Wood Products and Processes*

9:30 Registration

9:45 **Welcome**

Mr David Nevins, Chairman

Morning Chairperson: Mr Duncan Stewart, Earth Horizon Productions.

10:00 **Opening Address**

Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of the Marine and Natural Resources

10:15 **Fostering Innovation in SMEs**

Mr Liam Nellis, Chief Executive, *InterTradeIreland*

10:30 **State support mechanisms for Innovation in the forest products sector**

Dr Eugene Hendrick, Director, *COFORD*

10:50 **House of Tomorrow – opportunities for wood products and building systems**

Mr Kevin O’Rouke, Strategies and Development Manager, *Irish Energy Centre*

11:30 **TF2000 – a benchmark for industry/state collaboration**

Mr Jim McBride, Managing Director, *Century Homes*

11:50 **Timber Innovation Best Practice**

Dr Peter Bonfield, Director, *BRE*

12:20 **Solid Wooden Construction Systems**

Mr Johnny Halsted Hansen, *Associerede Ingeniorer*

Afternoon Chairperson: Mr Ernest Kidney, Chairman, Irish Timber Council.

2:00 **Building Market Advantage: BWF Accredited Timber Windows**

Mr Kevin Cubbage, *BWF*

2:25 **Innovation in Timber Engineering: The Flitch Beam**

Mr Chris Mettem, *TRADA*

2:50 **Developing New Products to Meet Customer Demands**

Prof Robin Mackenzie, Head of Department, *Napier University*

3:15 **Managing Innovation to Develop a New Product Range**

Ms Tuula Vartiainen, Managing Director, *Lunawood*

3:40 **Improving customer awareness to increase competitiveness and market position**

Mr Geoff Rhodes, Marketing Director, *Willamette Europe Ltd*

4:05 **Concluding Address**

Mr Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager, *COFORD*

4:20 CLOSE

Registration forms will be downloadable at the COFORD website from April 4th, 2002 – follow the link from the homepage [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie).

Enquiries for the Dublin workshop (29.4.02) should be directed to:

Ms Fiona Healey, Event Administrator, COFORD, Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4.

T: 00 353 1 7167700;

E: [admin@coford.ie](mailto:admin@coford.ie)

Enquiries for the Edinburgh workshop (30.4.02) should be directed to:

Ms Catriona Prebble, Scottish Forest Industries Cluster, FIDC, 53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT, Scotland;

T: 00 44 (0) 131 220 9292;

E: [scotcluster@fidc.org.uk](mailto:scotcluster@fidc.org.uk)

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# 4. Carbon Corner

Dr Gerhardt Gallagher has just completed a study for COFORD on carbon stock changes in Irish forests. The work has been submitted to the EPA and will form part of a comprehensive report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The work focuses on the net amounts of carbon that have been stored annually in the forests of Ireland. Dr Gallagher has constructed a dataset for the decade from 1991 to 2000 to track forest increment, removals through harvesting and thereby net changes in forest carbon stocks. This is the first time such a time series has been constructed in Ireland.

The first task was to determine the total growing stock in the national forest for each year over the decade to 2000. This was determined using the Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Planning System (FIPS) database.

Nineteen ninety-six is the FIPS base year. It shows a national forest area 576,000 ha in that year, broken down into twenty forest categories. Estimated standing volumes were assigned to each category. These were grossed up to the total wood volume for the category and their carbon content was determined (see Carbon Corner in June 2001 Newsletter). The FIPS forest was then grown forward and backwards in time to 2000 and 1991, taking into account removals through thinnings, clearfelling and new planting.

The volumes of wood removed in each year over the decade were obtained from Coillte and through estimates for the private sector. The equivalent carbon content of the removals was estimated using the same assumptions for standing volume.

The UNFCCC has a common reporting format that is used to report changes in carbon stocks. This uses nine forest categories. In order to comply with the UNFCCC format the FIPS categories were reassigned to one of the nine categories. In some cases – the FIPS mixed pine/spruce category for example – carbon stocks were split 50:50 into UNFCCC categories. A full ten-year data set, compliant with the UNFCCC categories, was therefore obtained.

What was the main result of the work? The study shows a constant increase in carbon stocks, at an increasing rate, over the ten years (Figure 1). The average net annual increase was 0.12 M[[1]](#footnote-1) t C per year or over the ten years, 1991-2000, a net sequestration of around 1.2 M t C. If we include the wood removed in harvest (most of which would still be in a solid form at the end of the decade) this increases to 5.8 M t C.

It is worth bearing in mind, however that over the same decade period emissions of greenhouse gases in Ireland were equivalent to around 170 M t C. So, while Irish forests are a net sink for carbon and do contribute to reducing the rate at which greenhouse gases are increasing in the atmosphere they are clearly not the main solution, which will have to focus on emission reductions.

FIGURE 1: CARBON STOCK CHANGES IN IRISH FORESTS OVER THE DECADE 1991-2000.

COFORD will publish a comprehensive paper outlining this work in the coming months.

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# 5. Wood for Energy Strategy Group

COFORD has established a group to consider the strategic issues around the use of wood for energy. Specifically, this relates to the use of sawmill residues, harvesting residues and small diameter roundwood (pulp from thinnings). The group will steer a team of consultants to prepare a report outlining all of the pertinent issues. More importantly, the report will outline strategies which must be adopted if the potential of wood as a source of renewable energy is to be realised. It is envisaged that the work of the group will be concluded within six months. The group consists of COFORD, Coillte, the Irish Timber Growers’ Association, the Irish Farmers’ Association and the Irish Timber Council.

Tipperary Institute are acting as secretariat to the group. The consultants will be appointed shortly and further details will be provided at a later date.

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# 6. Protocol for the identification of ash developed

Distinguishing between native Irish ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and *F. angustifolia* or *F. oxyphylla*, species with a distribution in southern mainland Europe has proved to be difficult if not impossible. This is particularly true in the case of transplants. This has caused problems in ash plantations where some material, imported from continental Europe, is suspected to contain a proportion of *F. angustifolia, F. oxyphylla* or hybrids between these species and *F. excelsior.*  Molecular biology can provide tools to address this problem. A variety of molecular techniques are routinely employed on forest trees, principally to analyse the genetic structure of populations, or in tree improvement programmes that employ markers linked to desirable traits. However, most techniques use molecular markers that distinguish between individual trees of the same species. Differences in DNA sequence can differentiate between species. Routine tests can be developed to show this difference and enable seedlings to be unambiguously classified.

Dr Tommy Gallagher, of the Botany Department in UCD while working with COFORD and the Forest Service has developed such a test. DNA was extracted from 15 native Irish ash and 15 French *F. angustifolia* individuals. A small section of the DNA from each individual was sequenced. Comparison of the DNA sequences revealed several single nucleotide differences between the species. A simple test has been developed to reveal one of these differences and is being used to differentiate between native Irish ash and the two other ash species. This test will provide a rapid, non-subjective, method for species identification in ash.

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# 7. New Framework Programme

The European Commission has recently launched a call for the submission of submission of expressions of interest (EoI) to participate in research actions for topics throughput the seven thematic priorities of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). The research actions are networks of excellence and integrated projects (both are new instruments in FP6). The closing date for the receipt of proposals is the 7th of June 2002.

Most forest research EoIs will address priority area 1.1.6 *Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems* and within that the area 1.1.6.3 *Global Change and ecosystems*. This includes the following proposed work area:

*Strategies for sustainable land management, including coastal zones, agricultural land and* ***forests****. The objective is to contribute to the development of strategies and tools for sustainable use of land, with emphasis on the coastal zones, agricultural lands and forests, including integrated concepts for the multipurpose utilisation of agricultural and* ***forest resources****, and the integrated* ***forestry/wood*** *chain in order to ensure sustainable development at economic, social, and at environmental levels.*

COFORD is aware that a number of forest research organisations throughout Europe are considering the submission of EoIs. We encourage Irish forest researchers to likewise consider submitting proposals in cooperation with their colleagues in Europe. Scientific and technological development is greatly facilitated by being involved in networks and integrated projects, at the European level. **COFORD will facilitate this process by providing contacts and, where appropriate, limited financial assistance to those Irish organisations who are preparing EoIs.**

While the main emphasis for forest research will be in sustainable land management there are other topics in area 6 such as renewable energy, and in other thematic areas such as information and communications technology, and genomics and biotechnology where the there are opportunities for the development of networks and integrated projects.

Further information is available from COFORD and at the CORDIS web site <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments>.

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# 8. Renewable Energy Clinic

REIO have organised a Renewable Energy Clinic in Kilkenny on Thursday 4 April at the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny starting at 6.15pm.  
  
This special event will be chaired by Paul Kellett (REIO Technical Manager) and he will be joined by a number of leading technology experts from Europe.  
  
Mr Erkki Kunnari (Finland - WinwinD Oy) will speak about the potential of wind energy, Patrik Olsson (Sweden - Thermia) will take a closer look at geo-thermal ground and water source heat pumps, David Roditi (France - TESCOL) is an expert in solar energy and solar design and they will be joined by Josef Schlogl (Austria - Hertz) wood and wood pellets for heating.  
  
The evening will be of particular interest to everyone wanting to find out more about renewable energy, the potential, the opportunities and the savings.  
  
For more information and to register for this one-off event please contact REIO on 023 29146 or email: [renewables@reio.ie](mailto:renewables@reio.ie)

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# 9. The Marcus Wallenberg Prize

Nominations are being sought for the Marcus Wallenberg Prize. The purpose of this prize is to recognise, encourage and stimulate pathbreaking scientific achievements which contribute to broadening knowledge and technical developments within the fields of importance to the forest industries. The prize includes an award of two million Swedish Crowns.

An important purpose is to stimulate further achievements by the prize winner and to provide encouragement to others in the selected field of science or engineering. An innovative achievement representing a major contribution of potential or demonstrated broad application may fall within, but is not necessarily limited to the fields of importance to the forest products industries listed below:

**Forestry**: genetics, systematics and tree breeding; silviculture and agroforestry; forest ecology and tree physiology; biometrics, computing and remote sensing; forest management, forest protection and forestry operations.

**Forest Products Industries**: forest products including wood and wood processing; papermaking fibres; paper and paper board and processes for their manufacture; the recycling of forest products, and innovations to improve their use and environmental performance.

Further information about the Prize is available at [www.mwp.org](http://www.mwp.org).

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# 10. Oak conference comes to England

The International Oak Society has announced the dates and venue of its fourth triennial conference. The conference will take place on  
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September 2003 at King Alfred¹s University College, Winchester. This is the first time the event has been held outside the United States.

The talks and discussions at the conference will occupy two full days, but in addition there will be a visit to the Hillier Gardens and Arboretum  
on 15 September.

The society’s website is at:  
<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~rjensen/ios.html>  
or Ms Dorothy Holley, Secretary of the Oak Society can be contacted for further details  
of the event. Tel: +44 (0) 2392 585972. E-mail: [23crescent@supanet.com](mailto:23crescent@supanet.com)

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# 11. Innovawood Logo Competition

The Board of Directors of InnovaWood is pleased to invite submissions for the design of a logo for the new network InnovaWood. The competition is open to all.

The InnovaWood Initiative was launched in order to create a coordinated supporting infrastructure for innovation in the Forest, Wood and Furniture industries sector. The initiative is the result of the alliance of the four existing networks: **Eurofortech**, the European Network for education, training and technology transfer in the Wood and Forestry sector, **Eurifi**, the European Association of Research Institutes for Furniture. **Euroligna**, European network for advanced wood processing and engineering education and, **Eurowood**, European network of timber technical centres and wood research organizations.

Education, training, research and development and, critically, technology transfer are fields of activity which underpin the sector’s ability to meet the challenges of the new century. A central activity of InnovaWood is the active and effective dissemination of information to research and training providers and to their industry based end-users. To this end InnovaWood is developing a variety of consultative and communication mechanisms with all the key European research and training institutions and industrial organisations in the forest, wood and furniture industry sectors.

As an example of the activities of InnovaWood, in September 2001, work commenced on a unique project, funded under the EU Quality of Life strand of the EU Fifth Framework Programme. The project, entitled **InnovaWood Research** - Information for industry about European Research and Development in the Forest, Wood and Furniture sector, is designed to provide the extended chain of European Forest and Wood-based industries with a user-friendly means of accessing information about research that is relevant to their activities. The InnovaWood Research project will accelerate knowledge transfer within Europe and between the many sub-sectors that make up the Forest and Wood-based industries chain. It is a dissemination project designed to generate substantial value-added to the RTD undertaken for the sector and to achieve technology transfer among the countries and regions of Europe (member states of the EU and associated countries). In addition the project will bring industry, and particularly the SME's, which predominate in the Forest and Wood-based Industries sector, into a closer relationship with RTD performers and providers of technology transfer and training.

# Competition Rules

A signed entry form must accompany all entries. All entries should be received by 5pm, Irish time 12 April 2002 at the logo competition address. The winner will be notified in writing and at InnovaWood.com by the 15 May, 2002. The InnovaWood Initiative will provide the winner with a cheque for €500

The design of the logo shall reflect the activities of the InnovaWood initiative. The logo should aim to reflect the activities of the whole wood chain across Europe in the areas of research and training and education. All entries become the property of the InnovaWood Initiative; all copyrights are waived on submission. The InnovaWood Initiative reserves the right to combine several submissions for use as the InnovaWood Initiative Logo.

The InnovaWood Initiative agrees to use any submissions to the InnovaWood Initiative Logo Competition only for this purpose. We reserve the right to display graphical representations of any entries during the InnovaWood Research European Launch. InnovaWood Initiative Board of Directors will be the final judge of the competition. The winner will be officially recognised during the InnovaWood Research European Launch. The winning logo will be used on stationary and the design should reflect this use. The logo may comprise two colours maximum (black, white and two others). The design of the logo should be clear when printed in black and white. A large format of the logo should be supplied (min 16 x 16 cm). The design of the logo should be clear at a reduced size of 3 x 3 cm. Electronic formats of the logo maybe provided in addition to the paper version, one should be a .gif file

Further details about the InnovaWood Initiative and constituent networks may be found at

[www.eurofortech.com](http://www.eurofortech.com)

[www.network-eurowood.com/](http://www.network-eurowood.com/)

[www.euroligna.com](http://www.euroligna.com)

[www.aidima.es/eurifi/foramanual.html](http://www.aidima.es/eurifi/foramanual.html)

[www.innovawood.com](http://www.innovawood.com)

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Email: [office@innovawood.com](mailto:office@innovawood.com)

Web: [www.innovawood.com](http://www.innovawood.com)

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# **12. CHINA WOOD,FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING MACHINERY 2002 EXPO**

The China Wood Expo will be held on June 6-9, 2002.

The Expo’s website can be visited at <http://iwzhx.51.net/>, where further details can be viewed. This event is the first wood correlative expo since China entered WTO.  It will provide a good opportunity both for Chinese customers and for overseas investors, manufacturers and prospecting companies to develop their market in China.

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1. Mega tonne = 1 million tonnes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)