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MPTS 2004

Managing Multipurpose Trees

22-25 November 2004 in Jodhpur, INDIA

Natural forests in the tropics are being destroyed at an estimated rate of 8-10 million hectares per year. Appropriate policies, scientific concepts and technologies have to be developed for the sustainable use of the remaining forests and the newly established plantations. Suitable strategies must be worked out for the genetic improvement and enhanced production of **Multipurpose Trees** (MPTS) to meet the needs of the increasing population. Suitable management practices, including harvesting and post harvesting technologies for **medicinal plants** are among of the most important areas where scientists can make a significant contribution to improving the income of rural populations. Trees outside forests play a very important role in catering to the day-to-day need of people in tropical regions and hence effective assessment techniques of this valuable resource are much needed.

The demand for useful and useable science is growing steadily, especially with regard to developing management strategies for forests and plantations. Despite rapid advances in information technology, communication and interaction is often inadequate between the researchers and the end users of the information. This is an old problem which needs to be emphasized and addressed.

This conference has given directions and demonstrated ways of how these objectives can be achieved, using examples from different parts of the world. Scientists from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe participated in the proceedings which featured two days of oral and poster presentations. The contributions have shown how the different scientific disciplines can provide useful technical support for enhancing productivity and sustainable management of multipurpose trees in tropical forests and plantations.

Better coordination between the different branches of the forestry scientific community is required to assist managers of wooded ecosystems. This important question was also discussed at length and some workable approaches regarding tropical forests were presented. For further details see the website: <http://www.afri.res.in/iufroconf2004/index.html>

The conference "Multipurpose trees in the Tropics: Assessment, Growth and Management" was attended by 202 scientists from 19 countries and featured 2 days of oral and poster presentations. Contributions dealt with assessment of trees outside Forests (Jensen, Kleinn, Morales, Seeland, Cheng, Elfadle Mohd, Pratap Narain, Harsh, Singh, Latif, Nazarudin); modelling tree growth & production (Burner, Vallejo, Kanninen, Tewari, Perez, Kumar); conservation and management practices for medicinal plants (Rawat, Misbahuzzaman, Abdalla El Tayeb, Chaudhuri, Aminah, Mishra, Rabena); tree genetics (Raebild, Assareh, Sardabi, Vasudeva, Anis, Rama Rao); management of MPTS including soil, water & nutrient management, integrated pest management and community forest management (Hossain, Zida, Ong, Joshi, Arya, Lamien, Godbole, Tabari, Tshering, Jalali, Traoré, Gill, Ahmed, Arsenio Ella, Azaruddin, Nautiyal, Jamaluddin). The event was organized by Dr. Vindhya Tewari of the Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur (India) and sponsored by IUFRO Division 4.