

Short Rotation Forestry: Synergies for Wood Production and Environmental Amelioration

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(Full report at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10300/activities/>)

Considering the significance and growing interest among researchers and development workers around the world in short rotation forestry, and against the background of the International Year of Forestry, the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Punjab Agricultural University, organized an IUFRO symposium on "Short Rotation Forestry: Synergies for Wood Production and Environmental Amelioration". The event, sponsored by BENWOOD, European Commission, took place from 10-12 February 2011, in Ludhiana, India. [IUFRO-SPDC](#), in cooperation with PAU and BENWOOD, held a post-symposium training workshop on [science-policy interfacing](#) from 13-14 February 2011. This workshop was open for participants of the Symposium.

The main themes of the symposium were: SRF resources, their management and GHG mitigation potential; SRF tree-crop interface; improvement of SRF tree species; ecological implications, invasive species and biodiversity; bio-energy and phyto-remediation; marketing, stakeholders vision and capabilities.

The post-symposium training workshop provided concepts and methods to researchers on how to plan, conduct, and organise research activities so that research results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making.

Short rotation forestry (SRF), the rapid silvicultural practice to reforest areas of barren forest lands, deforested mountains, salty grounds, etc. has the potential to enhance farm income from subsistence farming and also mitigate adverse influences of global climate change. It is a system for optimal utilization of natural resources using biological, physical, theoretical and practical knowledge in an ecologically acceptable manner. This practice helps to meet ever growing wood and energy requirements, to generate employment and to create carbon sinks. Furthermore, SRF helps in saving the virgin forests' wealth and acts as a vegetation filter. Short rotation forestry including agroforestry can act as a good source of carbon sequestration, although the carbon sequestration potential of afforestation/reforestation is variable as it is specific to species and the management involved.



Group photo: Courtesy of PAU

187 participants from 11 countries attended the IUFRO symposium. In total 193 abstracts were contributed under different themes which included 33 oral presentations. The research papers presented in the symposium will be reviewed and published in the special issue of *Indian Ecological Society*. Additionally, papers will be published in the form of an edited book. The power point presentations will be available on line at benwood website i.e., <http://www.benwood.eu> very shortly. 26 symposium participants also took part in the post-symposium training workshop.

Host: Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India
Sponsors: IUFRO-SPDC, Benwood (European Commission), ICRAF Dehradun (India) and PAU
Study tour to: Woodbased industry, Jalandhur (India), Amritsar and Wagha Border (India) on 12.02.2011.