

1/2003

Ministry has great expectations

Four pillars of the implementation

Future seminar in November

Welcome to join

## Future Forum on Forests kicks off with great expectations

*The Future Forum on Forests is a new initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, aiming to explore and predict trends and signals affecting livelihoods in the forest sector in the future. The Forum implementation started during spring 2003, and the first results of the Forum will be presented at the first future seminar to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Forum results and events can be followed at [www.metsaforumi.fi](http://www.metsaforumi.fi).*

### Ministry has great expectations

The first advisory board meeting and press conference of Future Forum on Forests (hereafter the Forum) was held a few days before the traditional Finnish mid-summer festival. At the press conference, Aarne Reunala (Director General of the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), said that: "The Ministry has great expectations of the Forum. The forest sector of Finland is currently facing changes. In order to hold better control over the changes, we need information on the future and analyses on the potential impacts of the changes."

The Forum will aim to predict the trends and signals that may have an influence on the sources of livelihood in the future. According to the Ministry "the Forum results can be utilized in long-term decision making. Foresight is important not only for political decision making, but also for the strategy processes in different forest sector organizations and for the sector's public image."

The results of the Forum will be reported to the Forest Committee, which will consider the results in the implementation of the Finnish National Forest Programme.

### Forum as a meeting point

The Forum will be a multisectoral and multidisciplinary meeting point. The discussions will generate information and knowledge on the issues affecting the sources of livelihood in the future. The multidisciplinary approach, a key feature of the Forum, is fundamental to finding innovative ideas for the success of forest-based livelihoods in the future.

Another key aim of the Forum is to promote forest sector and forest-based livelihoods. The Forum can therefore be seen as a "pro-forest sector" initiative rather than as an initiative conducting foresight work from the perspective of individual organizations. In this context the "forest sector" can be defined broadly as including forestry, the forest industry as well as other existing or future livelihoods that are based on the use of forest resources.

The Forum aims to maintain existing and establish new partnerships and cooperation between different stakeholders. In this way it can be expected that the meeting point -idea is realized and multidisciplinary information and knowledge can really be generated at the Forum. Benefits from the Forum will be greater for those organizations actively taking part in the various Forum activities.

### Four pillars

The Chairman of the Forum Implementation Team, Rector Perttu Vartiainen from the University of Joensuu compared the implementation of the Forum to four pillars: "The basic pillar is the work of five Working Groups: the environment, silviculture, forest technology, forest industry and social sustainability. These Working Groups try to foresee what are the trends affecting the future of the livelihoods in their own special field of the forest sector."

The second pillar is the group of detached studies that the Forum can implement on the emerging signals.

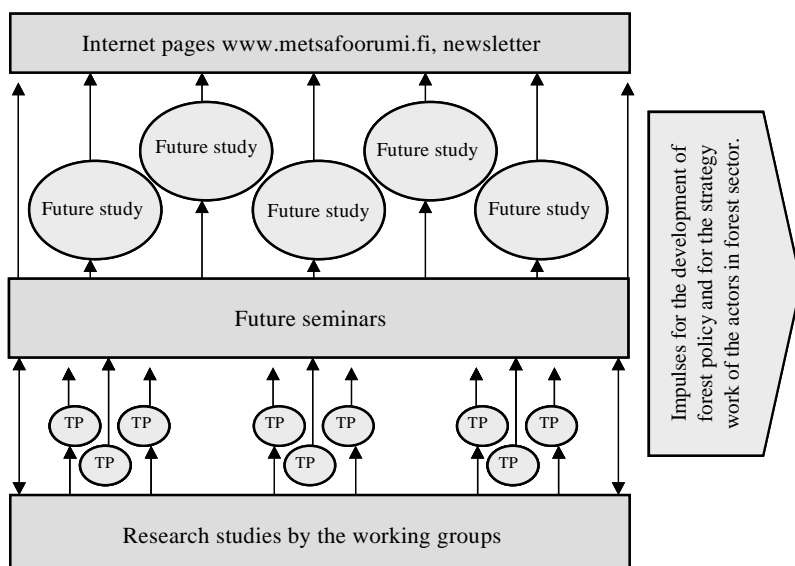
The third pillar is a series of seminars focusing on central issues affecting the li-

## - NEWSLETTER -

velihoods in the forest sector in the future. These 'future seminars' are the principal meeting point for those who are interested in trends and views on the future developments in different fields affecting the forest sector.

The fourth pillar is the Internet por-

tal - or the so-called home base for future information in the forest sector - that has been opened at [www.metsafoorumi.fi](http://www.metsafoorumi.fi). The results of the Forum will be presented here. The portal will also provide relevant information on different future studies and events.



### Activities of the Future Forum on Forests.

#### ForumNews

The ForumNews (that you're reading now) will bring you the latest results as well as information on the future-oriented publications and events. The ForumNews will be published in Finnish and English four times a year. You can add yourself to the mailing list of the ForumNews at the home page of the Forum, or by sending an email to Saija Miina ([saija.miina@joensuu.fi](mailto:saija.miina@joensuu.fi)).

#### Seminar registration

The first future seminar is planned for 13 November 2003. It will focus on the impacts of international processes and trends in the forest sector. The title of the seminar is "Livelihoods in the maelstrom of globalisation" illustrating the reactive role of livelihoods on large-scale global changes. You can register for the seminar at the home page of the Forum, or by sending an email to Saija Miina ([saija.miina@joensuu.fi](mailto:saija.miina@joensuu.fi)).

For the latest information, keep your eyes on [www.metsafoorumi.fi](http://www.metsafoorumi.fi)!

The Future Forum on Forests is implemented by the University of Joensuu. The implementation team:

Chairman: Rector Perttu Vartiainen

Vice-chairman: Prof. Paavo Pelkonen

Working group leaders:  
Forest technology: Prof. Pertti Harstela

Silviculture: Prof. Taneli Kolström

Environment: Prof. Seppo Kellomäki

Forest industry: Prof. Matti Kärkkäinen

Social sustainability:  
Prof. Olli Saastamoinen

Co-ordinator of the forum and working groups:  
Director Anssi Niskanen

## Newsletter of the FutureForum on Forests

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Future Forum on Forests  
University of Joensuu  
P.O. Box 111  
FIN-80101 Joensuu

Editor: Saija Miina  
[saija.miina@joensuu.fi](mailto:saija.miina@joensuu.fi)

Future Forum on Forests on the Internet:  
<http://www.metsafoorumi.fi>

The newsletter of the Future Forum on Forests aims to provide updated information on the activities and results of the forum. This informal newsletter is produced and distributed electronically and you can find it on the Internet on <http://www.metsafoorumi.fi/news.htm>. You can also order it to your email address by sending an email to [saija.miina@joensuu.fi](mailto:saija.miina@joensuu.fi).

