

3/2006

Seminar on forest sector's regeneration

World's leading forest cluster in 2030

Forestry Council's outline to become main emphases of the forest sector

New Centre of Expertise Programme starting

New initiatives to develop wood use

In the future seminar to be held in November 2006, it will be discussed how the strategic research programme of the Finnish forest cluster published in October 2006 and the outline for the forest sector's focuses and aims by the Forestry Council will support the regeneration and developing of the forestry in Finland. Most of the foresight work of the forest sector emphasises the significance of the renewal in the developing of wood-based sources of livelihoods.

Seminar on forest sector's regeneration

The foresight work of the Future Forum on Forests, Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture, the Finnish Forest Research Institute and the Forest Academy for Decision-Makers as well as the strategic research programme of the Finnish forest cluster emphasise the necessity of regeneration in developing the wood- and forest-based sources of livelihoods.

Most essential viewpoints of foresight work, such as the changing use of wood in the future, will be presented in the future seminar organised in the Heureka Science Centre, in Vantaa, Finland on 9 November 2006. On the basis of the presentations there will be discussions on research, development and political means needed to increase the possibilities of the wood-based sources of livelihoods.

The seminar aims to increase positive discussion on the fields in which wood use will be possible to develop further and on those possibilities which have not yet been used in production. Most significant potential can be found particularly in those products which will offer solutions in the most important questions for the human kind. One essential issue is how the energy management could be arranged in a more sustainable means. The whole image and the general acceptability of the forest sector will improve as the sustainable development of wood use will be broadened to more generally significant purposes.

World's leading forest cluster in 2030

The research strategy of the Finnish forest cluster coordinated by Finnish Forest Industries Federation was published on 5 October 2006. The research strategy outlines the most significant emphases from the viewpoint of the forest cluster

and its clientele and directs the resources for research and development of the cluster towards the areas of emphasis in the future.

The three most essential needs for development of the forest cluster emphasised by the research strategy are renewal, improving competitiveness and enhancing sustainable development. As far as renewal is concerned, the most important means is to clarify which new products and the businesses involved will have global demand and competitiveness as well as broad enough productive significance.

In order to improve competitiveness the production costs must be decreased and the refining value of the products increased. The products and the modes of action to be developed must be economically, socially and environmentally approved.

The emphases of the research areas supporting renewal, competitiveness and sustainable development were defined as the following:

- intelligent wood and fibre products
- materials produced of wood and its constituents
- biorefinery utilising wood in a versatile manner
- sustainable management of forests
- solutions generating added value for wood biomass
- intelligent and resource-saving production technologies
- solutions for the future clientele.

One of the most essential means in implementing the forest cluster's research strategy is the establishment of Forest Cluster Ltd in Finland. Establishing a unit of strategic expertise in the forest cluster was also highlighted in the Science and Technology Council's report published in June 2006. This particular report emphasises the significance of the expertise in the forest cluster for national competitiveness in Finland.

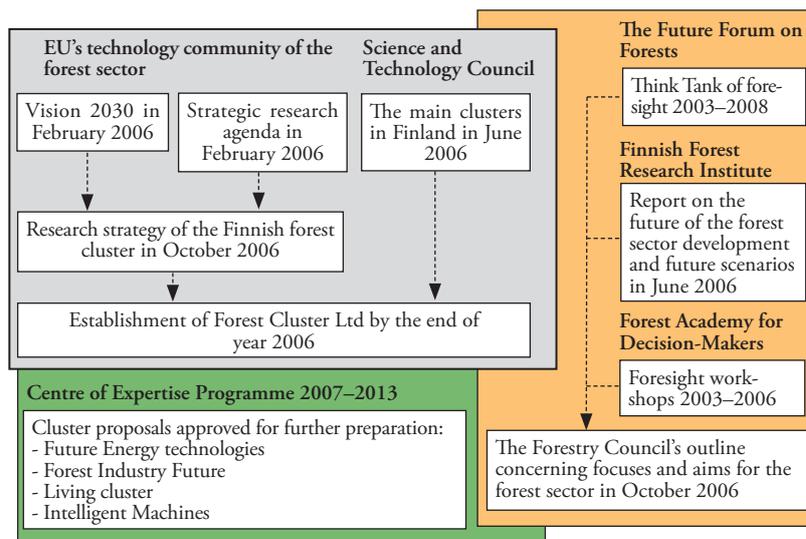


Figure 1. Foresight work utilised in the preparing of the forest sector programmes.

Forestry Council's outline to become main emphases of the forest sector

The outline of the Forestry Council concerning the focuses and aims for the forest sector were published on 2 October 2006. The outlineings will be the basis for the revision of the Finnish forest policy programme (National Forest Programme 2015) which will be completed by the end of year 2007. The Forestry Council has utilised several foresight studies of the forest sector in preparing of the outline.

According to the vision of the Forestry Council, forests will provide new sustainable solutions to the challenges of the future. The significance of the forest sector will be emphasised in the sustainable development. Expertise, innovations, new developments, high-level research, versatile education and utilising research results will be in a key position when preparing for the changes in the societal environment.

The aims of the forest sector defined by the Forestry Council are:

- ample, healthy and varied forest resources

- competitive operational conditions for the developing forest industry
- forestry as a profitable business
- forests that support regional development, employment and entrepreneurship
- ecologically sustainable management and use of forests
- forests that provide a source of cultural and recreation
- a strong system of expertise that promotes renewal of the forest sector
- international forest policy that promotes sustainable forestry.

New Centre of Expertise Programme starting

By means of Centres of Expertise various regions in Finland are being encouraged to utilise their expertise in order to do well in the ever more rigorous international competition. On 13 October 2006, the Committee for the Centre of Expertise Programme proposed thirteen nationally significant clusters of expertise to the Centre of Expertise Programme for the period of 2007–2013.

The outline of the Forestry Council concerning the focuses and aims for the forest sector
www.mmm.fi/attachments/5enfdAPe1/5m6LgokFX/Files/CurrentFile/MMMjulkaisu2006_11b.pdf

European Forest-based Sector Technology Platform
www.forestplatform.org/

Newsletter of the Future Forum on Forests

Publisher:
 Future Forum on Forests
 University of Joensuu
 P.O. Box 111
 FI-80101 Joensuu

Editor: Saija Miina
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

