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Summary of the results
of the first phase

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a threat to the forestry
of the 2010s

The second phase of the
Forum starts in April
2005

Prosperous forest sector - third seminar of Future Forum on Forests in Lahti

The most competitive forest industry as well as the most developed network in forestry is currently probably found in Finland. How will the forest sector be able to prosper also in the future? The most essential questions of the forest sector in the future will be discussed in the third seminar of Future Forum on Forests. What are the preconditions on the competitiveness of forest industry? How can the availability of wood be improved? Which are the roles of the decision-makers in forestry? How to take advantage of the possibilities of societal capital and environmental changes in the future?

Summary of the results of the first phase

Summary of the results of the first phase of the Future Forum on Forests will be presented at a seminar 'Prosperous forest sector' held in Lahti, Finland on 16 March 2005. Registration to the seminar will be made in connection with the registering to the 'Metsäpäivät' organised by the Finnish Forest Association. Further information on the event is available (in Finnish) at www.metsaforumi.fi/tapahtumia.htm and www.smy.fi/metsapaivat2005.

The possibilities of the sources of livelihoods based on forestry and the use of forests to prosper in Finland also in the future will be discussed in the seminar. The results of the Forum's work on the competitiveness of forest industry, the significance and challenges of wood availability, the roles of the decision-makers in forestry, the needs to develop the societal capital and the environmental changes of forests will be presented as a background material for the discussion. A strategy for a successful forestry of the future in Finland will be outlined based on the results and the discussions

Insufficient labour force a threat to the forestry of the 2010s

Since the 1970s there has been from time to time an ongoing discussion on the shortage of labour in forestry. Fortunately at least for the time being there has been no serious threat in the amount of labour force. The main threat in the shortage of labour will be faced in the 2010s when there will be a significant decrease

in the forestry professions. In particular among the forest workers many will retire by the year 2020.

One of the reasons to be concerned about the amount of labour force is the low number of applicants in the educational and professional sector in forestry. Among the ones graduated in forestry it has become common to move on to work on other fields of interest. Some of the reasons may be the poor appeal of the jobs in forestry and the bad image of the forest sector.

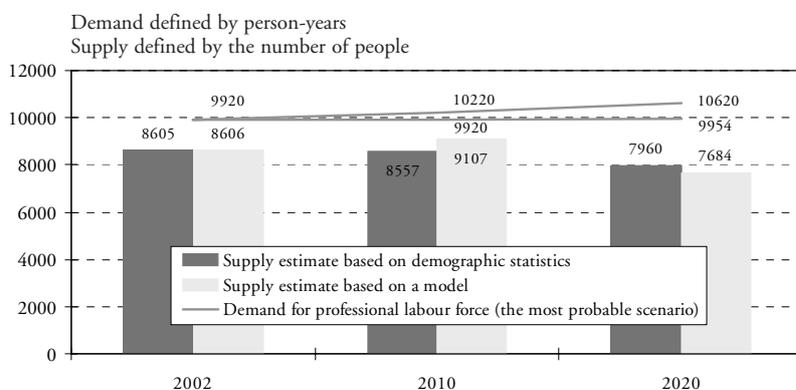
According to a report made by Jaakko Pöyry Management Consulting Oy there may become a deficit of 200–600 person-years of forest workers in forestry and manual felling in Finland by the year 2020. The shortage of forest workers threatens particularly eastern and northern Finland.

In mechanised and fuelwood harvesting as well as in chipping there may become even 1500–2000 person-years' labour shortage in the whole of Finland by 2020. In transportation by road a similar difference in supply and demand may amount to 650–1100 person-years. The labour shortage in these fields is also greatest in East and North Finland.

It has been assumed in the above-mentioned figures that the work done by the forest owners themselves will remain in the same level as in year 2002 which accounts to nineteen percent of work in forestry and harvesting. If the amount of forest owners' work were to decrease by half by the year 2020, it would increase the demand of labour force in the forestry sector for over 2000 person-year.

The estimates on the development of supply and demand in forestry, manual felling and mechanised harvesting as well as in the transportation by road in Fin-

land can be seen in Figure 1. The report on the availability of labour force in forestry is available on the Forum's website in late January 2005.



The demand for labour force includes forestry, manual felling, mechanised harvesting and transportation by road. Labour force supply includes forest workers in full-time jobs as well as all the employees in transportation by road.

Figure 1. An estimate of the supply and demand of labour force in forestry in Finland in 2002, 2010 and 2020.

The second phase of the Forum starts in April 2005

The second phase of Future Forum on Forests will start in April 2005. The primary goal of the Forum is to support national forest policy, to develop other policy sectors affecting forests and to support the future and strategic work in the forest sector.

In the second phase multisectoral expertise and networking will be emphasised when estimating the possibilities on the use of forests. For this purpose the Forum invites leading experts of various fields to join in the Forum's second phase. The aim is to further increase the cooperation of experts from different fields in forestry.

In the second phase the emphasis will also be in the international field of the

foresight work. The Forum aims to network in the foresight projects of the forest sector abroad and to participate the essential international foresight projects.

By emphasising these particular topics the Forum aims to meet the need to foresee the external as well as international development processes from the viewpoint of sources of livelihoods in the forest sector, and by the well-being based on forests.

The work in the second phase of the Forum will be discussed in a seminar on 16 March 2005 in Lahti, Finland.

In the forest sector this unification may occur as a wide and versatile people's cooperation not only to protect forests but also to develop forest management and wood utilisation in the rural areas.

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