

Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries

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General Poplar & Willow Context

- Account for 80 + million ha of natural & planted forests & agroforestry systems globally
- Provide a wide range of wood, fibre, bioenergy/biofuel & non wood forest products
- Provide a wide range of social and ecosystem services

BUT

- Potential to support sustainable livelihoods & land-use in developing countries, particularly in Eastern Mediterranean & Central Asian regions is not being fully realized



Project Idea & Support

- **First International Conference on the Future of Poplar Culture, Rome, Italy, November, 2003**
- **The 22nd Session of the International Poplar Commission (IPC), Santiago, November 2004**
- **17th Session of COFO (March, 2005)**
- **43rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the IPC (February, 2007)**
- **18th Session of COFO (March 2007)**
- **23rd Session, IPC (Oct 2008)?**
- **19th Session, COFO (March 2009)?**



Issues to Address in the Project

- Poplar & Willow resources over-exploited
- Insufficient research & development on Poplar & Willow Science
- Weak transfer of science & technology => weak institutional capacity (policy, planning, practices)
- Poor Poplar & Willow nursery management & silviculture
- Low productivities, health and yields from Poplars & Willows
- Diminished Poplar & Willow contribution to livelihoods, land-use & landscapes



Opportunities

- **Poplar & Willow specialists of IPC Member Countries can play a prominent role in transfer of knowledge & technology:**
 - Genetics, conservation & improvement (incl. germplasm)
 - production systems (nursery & silvicultural management)
 - forest health (insects, diseases, pests & abiotic stressors incl. fire)
 - harvesting & utilization
 - environmental applications
- **Institution strengthening & capacity building**
 - Education, training & extension services
 - Joint research programmes
 - Study Tours & fellowships
 - Pilot/Demonstration Projects in Selected Countries
 - Strengthen Policies, Planning and Management Practices



Anticipated Outcome

“Strengthened capacity & capability in the application of Poplar & Willow knowledge & technology towards achieving sustainable livelihoods & land-use globally & specifically in target countries in Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asian countries”



Outputs/Activities (1)

- **Priority needs identified to enhance contribution of Poplars & Willows to sustainable livelihoods & land-use**
 - Undertake questionnaire needs analysis (use NPCs where possible)
 - Conduct International Workshop to prepare project proposals for selected countries
 - Prepare a 3-4 year proposal to submit to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Outputs/Activities (2)

- **Transfer of knowledge & application of scientific research in Poplars & Willows into policies, plans & management practices**
 - Update, upgrade & expand IPC website (working parties, NPCs, publications, databases etc)
 - Provide technical support to IPC Secretariat & Scientific Committee for 23rd Session of IPC (interpreters, developing country assistance, publications, translations etc)
 - Review & update web-based databases on Poplars & Willows (maintained by the Italian Poplar Research Institute)
 - Complete major publication “Poplars and Willows in the World”
 - Complete e-book “Damaging Poplar Insects – Internationally Important Species”



Outputs/Activities (3)

- **Collaboration & information exchange strengthened between the IPC Working Parties, National Poplar Commissions & collaborating partner bodies & agencies, including Silva Mediterranea, International Poplar Symposium, IEA Bioenergy Agency**
 - The IPC (Executive Committee, Working Parties or National Poplar Commissions) participate and collaborate in activities of Silva Mediterranea, International Poplar Symposium, IEA Bioenergy Agency and other relevant agencies where synergies are logical



Participation with IPC

- **FAO encourage participation with NPCs, selected institutions & specialists to undertake the key activities, to achieve the outputs & outcome**
- **Thank you in anticipation of your kind participation**
- **I look forward to working with you**



Thank you for your attention

