INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

22nd Session
Santiago, Chile, 29 November – 2 December 2004

THE CONTRIBUTION OF POPLARS AND WILLOWS TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Abstracts of Submitted Papers
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These Abstracts of Submitted Papers do not reflect any official position of FAO but are to provide early release of information on on-going International Poplar Commission initiatives and its member country activities and programmes to stimulate dialogue between Poplar and Willow stakeholders around the globe.

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Comments and feedback are welcome.

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October 2004
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These Abstracts of Submitted Papers are the product of a global team of dedicated people willingly giving of their time and specialist expertise. It is encouraging to see the diversity of topics selected by the authors, reflecting the topical issues of 28 countries, in all temperate and boreal regions of the world. Jim Richardson (Canada), Jud Isebrands (USA), Jim Ball (UK/Italy), Stefano Bisoffi (Italy) and Jim Carle (FAO) of the Scientific Committee undertook the evaluation, review and allocation of abstracts for plenary, oral or visual presentations. The communications with all authors, as usual, was most efficiently coordinated by the IPC administrative assistant, Graciela Andrade (FAO). The computer and database expertise of Alberto Del Lungo (FAO consultant) was critical in tracking and managing the paper summary review process in an accurate and orderly manner. Michèle Millanès (FAO consultant) devoted long hours during her summer vacation to editing and formatting of the abstracts, supported most ably by Jim Richardson (Canada). Santiago Barros (Chile) and Elvira Petray (Argentina) of the joint Organizing Committee were most effective champions of contributions from Chile and Argentina as host nations.

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FOREWORD

Poplars and Willows, which account for an estimated 70 million ha of natural and planted forests globally, are among the fastest-growing trees in temperate regions and are easy to cultivate and form an important component of forestry and agricultural systems, often for small-scale farmers. They provide a wide range of wood products (industrial roundwood and poles, pulp and paper, reconstituted boards, plywood, veneer, sawn timber, packing crates, pallets, furniture etc); non-wood products (fodder, fuelwood etc); and services (shelter, shade and protection of soil, water, crops, livestock and dwellings). Poplars and Willows play an important role in phyto-remediation of severely degraded sites, rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems (including combating desertification), forest landscape restoration, often integrated with agriculture, horticulture, viticulture and apiculture and as fast growing species are effective at sequestering carbon. They create employment, boost exports and contribute to social and economic development and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.

The functions of the International Poplar Commission are to study the scientific, technical, social and economic aspects of poplar and willow cultivation, to promote the exchange of ideas and material among research workers, producers and users, to arrange joint research programmes, to stimulate the organization of congresses and study tours, to report and make recommendations to National Poplar Commissions and poplar researchers, growers and users. The IPC formal Sessions are held in different regions of the world to address topical issues and demonstrate unique applications of Poplar and Willow culture and management reflecting their priority social, culture, environmental and economic needs.

The 22nd Session of the International Poplar Commission will bring together policy makers, planners, managers, users, academics and researchers from the public and private sectors and civil society to address topical issues related to the theme “The Contribution of Poplars and Willows to Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development”. This will embrace the application of Poplars and Willows in multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral land-uses.

A priority of the IPC is to translate Poplar and Willow culture and policies into implementation and science into practice to achieve sustainable forestry, livelihood and rural development. This Book of Abstracts will help to facilitate this, firstly by presentation of the paper summary and by listing of author e-mail coordinates for follow up. The book is presented in accordance with primary working party topic, within which, papers are listed in author in alphabetic order. This will allow participants to the 22nd Session to prepare for presentations and follow up discussions and dialogue on topical issues in plenary and working sessions. It is hoped that this Book of Abstracts will facilitate stimulating dialogue between Poplar and Willow stakeholders, particularly in transfer of knowledge and technology between developed countries, developing countries and those with economies in transition to build their capacity and capability in Poplar and Willow culture and applications in sustainable forestry and integrated rural development.

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