

**International Workshop:**

*“Improve the contribution of Poplars and Willows in meeting sustainable livelihoods and land-use in selected Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries”*

**Izmit, Turkey  
27 – 31 July 2009**

**Introduction**

Poplars and Willows, which account for more than 80 million ha of natural and planted forests and agroforestry systems globally, play a significant role in afforestation and reforestation, rehabilitation of degraded forests and fragile ecosystems; enhance the contribution of forests and trees in mitigating the effects of climate change and reverse the loss of natural forests and restoration of landscapes. They provide a wide range of wood, fibre, bio-energy/biofuel and non-wood forest products together with a wide range of social and ecosystem services but the potential to support sustainable livelihoods and land-use in developing countries, particularly in Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asian countries, is not being fully realized.

**Project**

The Italian-funded FAO project GCP/INT/059/ITA, “Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use”, under the Secretariat of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc/en/>), aims to improve the contribution of Poplars and Willows in meeting sustainable livelihoods and land-use in selected Mediterranean and Central Asian countries. The project is in line with both the objectives of the IPC (*to study the scientific, technical, social and economic aspects of Poplar and Willow cultivation and to promote the research and the exchange of ideas among the researchers, producers and users*), and with the Millennium Development Goals (*...eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop global partnerships for development*).

**Purpose of the meeting**

The project GCP/INT/059/ITA is organizing an international workshop on Poplar and Willows with selected Mediterranean and Central Asian countries to have a better understanding of the needs and to provide more effective methods in transferring knowledge and technology in translating scientific research (within and beyond the region) into policies, plans and practices to combat desertification, rehabilitate degraded lands and provide other social and ecosystem services, whilst also producing sustainable supplies of wood, fibre, bio-energy and non-wood forest products.

**Participants**

The meeting will bring together 30-35 key stakeholders from both donor and recipient countries with the aim to prepare pilot projects to transfer Poplars and Willows knowledge and technology to less developed countries in the regions. The meeting targets Mediterranean, Central Asian and East European Countries, particularly: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and will include specialists from Belgium, China, France and Italy. Representatives of the International Poplar Commission Executive Committee will help to facilitate the workshop.

**Prerequisites**

Countries willing to participate will report responses to a questionnaire on Poplar and Willow cultivation and conditions in their respective countries. The information will include Poplar and Willow data on areas (natural and planted forests and agroforestry), purposes, ownership, cultivars in use, nursery production, and health. Responses to questionnaire will be reported at the workshop to highlight major challenges and opportunities in Poplar and Willow cultivation.

**Place and period**

Five working days, including a two-day field trip on Poplars and Willows application, at the PFGFTRI in Izmit, Turkey, from 27 to 31 July 2009.

**Agenda****Day 1 (Monday, 27 July 2009)***Plenary*

- Registration
- Opening (Organizer)
- Nomination of the Chair
- Reports from Countries - Challenges and Opportunities

**Day 2 (Tuesday, 28 July 2009)***Plenary*

- Analysis of regional needs
- Introduction to the Logical Framework Approach

*Working Sessions (Genetics, Silviculture, Cultivation systems (Agroforestry/Stand), End uses)*

- Identification of project priority needs and pilot project proposals drafted into Logical Framework: Impacts, Outcomes, Outputs, Activities

*Plenary*

- Summary of Working Sessions, preliminary results

**Day 3 (Wednesday, 29 July 2009)**

*Field trip: poplar and willow applications in Turkey: productive and protective purposes (Combating desertification, erosion control) – Refinement of Logical Framework*

**Day 4 (Thursday, 30 July 2009)**

*Field trip: poplar and willow applications in Turkey: productive and protective purposes (Combating desertification, erosion control) – Refinement of Logical Framework*

**Day 5 (Friday, 31 July 2009)***Working Sessions*

- Finalizing of project proposals

*Plenary*

- Endorsement and recommended actions

**Outputs**

- Expansion of the network of Poplar and Willow Specialists
- Identification of project countries and partners
- Project proposals for submission to potential donors

**Potential Outcomes**

- Strengthening Poplar and Willow technology and application in the Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asian countries
- New country membership to strengthen the IPC

**Language**

The meeting will be held in English. Two interpreters will assist in English and Russian language.