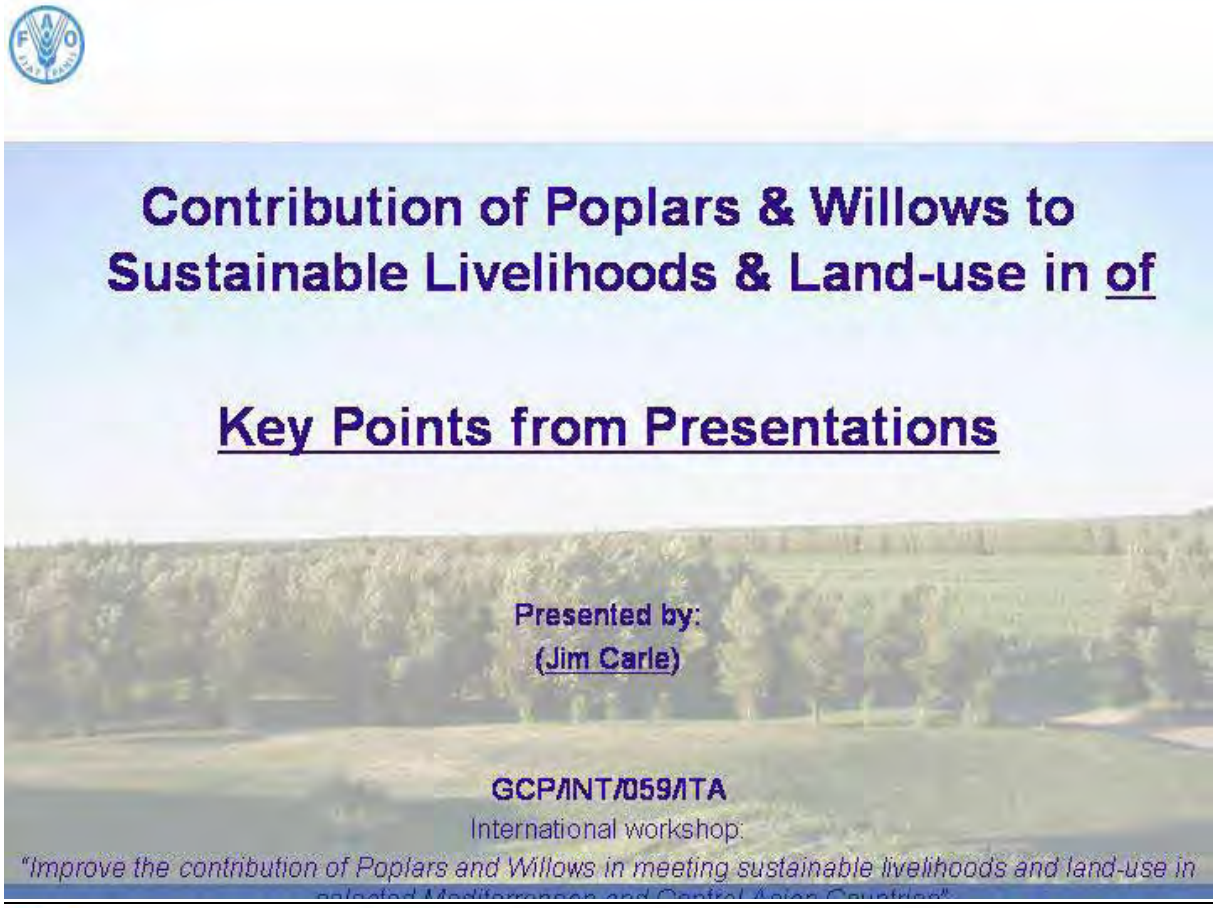
Contribution of Poplars & Willows to Sustainable Livelihoods & Land-use in of
Key Points from Presentations
Presented by:
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GCP/INT/059/ITA
International workshop:
"Improve the contribution of Poplars and Willows in meeting sustainable livelihoods and land-use in


Context: Poplar & willow culture
Poplar natural forests:
wide range of forests – conservation & protected areas, recreation (low % of land area)
Willow forests:
generally less forest areas than poplars – water courses etc
Intensive plantations, poplar:
10,000-50,000 ha expanding but facing difficulties to expand, production of wood, fibre and potentially wood energy, some rehabilitation of degraded lands, carbon forests
limited species, clones
Intensive plantations, willow:
limited plantations of willow – phyto remediation, bioenergy, treated water waste
Agroforestry, poplar:
diverse range of poplar mechanisms
Agroforestry willow:
relatively small willow agroforestry

Key stakeholders in poplar & willow development

- **Governance in P & W (policies, programs & technical support):**
  1. Environment & Forestry Ministries
  2. Agriculture & Forestry Ministries
  3. Agriculture Ministries
- **Research in P & W & Specializations**
  1. State Forest Institutes
  2. Universities
- **Education & Training in P & W**
  1. Most countries have Universities for professional training or access to neighboring countries
  2. Technical and operational training for forest managers & artisans exist, but need strengthening
  3. Strong need for forest extension (smallholders, farmers)
- **Investors in P & W afforestation/harvesting/end use**
  1. Government, State enterprises
  2. Farmers/smallholders, private lands – depend upon land-use & crop ownership rights
  3. Companies, private lands – depend upon land-use & crop ownership rights

Benefits from poplar & willow cultivation (economic, environmental & social)

- Benefits depend upon purpose, scale, investor & land-use
- P & W both very flexible & can be grown in a wide range of mechanisms from small to large scale
- P & W - carbon sequestration/storage, protection of waterways, soils, watersheds, shelter of villages, roads, public utilities bioenergy
- Willows phyto-remediation, treated and untreated water waste
- Poplars valuable supply of wood, fibre – many products
- rural employment, appropriate technology, in phase with livelihoods needs, local products for local people, help to combat urban drift, development of village based industries

Major issues in poplar & willow culture

- Need for coherent, consistent, clear policy, legal, regulatory frameworks – enabling conditions - invest
- Institutional frameworks (transition from centralized-decentralized systems) – strong state control, but emerging private sector private smallholder/farmers
- Inter-sectoral-multi-disciplinary nature of P & W institutions & management a challenge for foresters
- Limited species & clones => risk/vulnerabilities to insects, diseases and other pests
- Public & political negative perception about P & W
- Emerging issues of bioenergy, carbon sequestration are major for P & W
- Industrial use in the region is in infancy with strong emphases on protection, conservation etc
- Hydrology, water resources issues

Problems/constraints experienced in P & W culture

- State dominance, policy & legal frame not changed
- Bias against intensive P & W plantations (in infancy)
- Threats of insects, diseases, pests, fires, natural disasters (droughts, floods, winds etc)
- Changed hydrology, irrigation issues in arid lands
- Small private sector, uncertain market situation
- Lack of sustainability management tools
- Special needs of smallholder investors (extension)
- Poor public perception and negative bias for plantations and P & W

Opportunities for poplars & willows to meet sustainable livelihoods & sustainable land-use

- Enabling conditions for private smallholder & corporate
- Industry development, village based industries
- Extension services
- Renewable, energy efficient, environmentally sensitive provision of products and services
- Suitability for rehabilitation of degraded or marginal lands
- Less intensive management than annual crops
- Flexible over forestry and agricultural land-uses
- Carbon and bioenergy markets

Priority needs to support poplar & willow development

- Recognize & realize the multiple potentials of P & W
- Integrate institutional support systems – forestry and agriculture
- Improve policy, legal, and long term strategy development (including climate change mitigation, bioenergy etc)
- Collaboration between scientists to share research and results, better networking
- Link science-policy-practices
- Improve public awareness/understanding of P&W
- Pilot projects to demonstrate to politicians/public
- Support investment in industry development