FNC International Workshop for Silviculture of Intensively Managed Plantations

Merida and Acarigua, Venezuela

12–16 November 2007

Cost: Cooperative members: US$250; non-members: US$1200; international teachers and students: US$200; ULA students: US$100 (fees include training materials, certificate, refreshments and travel to the city of Acarigua)

Presented in English (with Spanish interpretation) and Spanish, with materials in Spanish

The Forest Nutrition Cooperative (FNC) is an international partnership committed to creating innovative solutions to enhance forest productivity and value through the sustainable management of site resources. The partnership is led by the forestry faculty at North Carolina State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Universidad de Concepción (Chile).

Over the last few years, considerable progress has been made in the understanding of eco-physiological processes affecting forest productivity and how these processes are influenced by genetics, the availability of resources (light, water and nutrients) and their interactions. Through appropriate silvicultural treatments, including plant and soil manipulation, it is possible to significantly increase productivity and production efficiency and establish the basis for sustainable forest management in the 21st century.

The objective of this course is to provide participants with the most updated knowledge available on the ecological and physiological factors that affect forest productivity within the framework of silvicultural treatments, so that they will be able to use this knowledge for the development of site-specific silvicultural prescriptions that are cost-effective as well as environmentally sustainable.

The course will focus on coniferous and broadleaved forest plantations in temperate and sub-tropical regions as these are the species and regions where intensive plantation silviculture is most commonly practised. However, the concepts to be discussed in the course may later be applied to any other ecosystems where site resources and vegetative material are actively managed.

The course will include lectures, discussions and case studies (32 hours teaching time) and two field days.

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Study tour: mangrove forests in Malaysia

Kuala Sepetang, Selangor and Putrajaya, Malaysia

3–7 September 2007

Cost: US$750 (fees include course, learning materials, accommodation, meals and local transportation)

APAFRI is organizing this study tour in cooperation with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). Participants will visit the Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve, the largest mangrove forest reserve in Malaysia and among the best managed of such forests worldwide. They will then visit Sungai Besar, located in Selangor, to give participants a new experience on how mangrove trees are grown to protect the shores and lessen the impact of waves in the future. Finally, participants will travel to the Putrajaya Wetlands, believed to be the largest constructed freshwater wetlands in the tropics.

Please note that participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa and insurance coverage as well as air tickets to and from Malaysia. A deposit of US$350 is required before the study tour to confirm participation. Accepted participants would be contacted regarding payment of this deposit.

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Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS)

CTFS supports research through its Research Grant Program, which provides opportunities for senior researchers, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students to utilize its extensive global network of Forest Dynamics Plots and to conduct research with scientists associated with the establishment and monitoring of these plots. CTFS also organizes thematic workshops and offers courses and fellowship opportunities in the fields of global carbon cycling, climate change and soil ecology to develop powerful research protocols for its global network of forest plots.

For more information, visit the CTFS website at http://www.ctfs.si.edu/doc/grants_fellowships/index.html

Courses are in English unless otherwise stated. By featuring these courses ITTO doesn't necessarily endorse them. Potential applicants are advised to obtain further information about the courses of interest and the institutions offering them.

Breaking news

Norway bans tropical timber in public procurement

Norway has banned the use of tropical timber in all public buildings, citing concerns about deforestation rates in the world's most biodiverse forests. The decision comes after a series of scandals where governmental institutions were found to be using wood from allegedly threatened rainforests in building projects, despite a 2002 appeal by two ministers to only use sustainably logged tropical wood. Since the government does not recognize any tropical forest certification system as reliable, the Directorate of Public Construction and Property has created this new law banning the use of all tropical wood, including certified wood. "We are not fundamentally against logging in tropical forests," said Lars Løvold, director of the Rainforest Foundation Norway. "The problem is that today there exist no reliable certification scheme for logging in tropical countries. Until such reliable schemes are in place or we have other ways to secure that logging is done in a sustainable way, we support the government's decision to ban the use of tropical wood."

Although Norway's imports of tropical timber are small (averaging under 3000 m^3 of tropical sawnwood, about 1000 m^3 of tropical veneer and 5000 m^3 of tropical plywood annually since 2000), tropical timber exporters are expected to react strongly due to the potential implications that acceptance of such a blanket ban could have on the development of emerging public procurement schemes for timber in several other major import markets.

For more information, see http://www.rainforest.no/html/481.htm or http://news.mongabay.com/2007/0702-norway.html