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# CANOPY

Your RIL Newsletter

July - December, 2004

The Forestry Training Centre Incorporated is the result of a partnership between the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Tropical Forest Foundation and the Forest Products Association of Guyana with funding from the International Tropical Timber Organization.



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## Where to find FTCI?



## Occupational safety and health and the effective application of RIL

Forestry work continues to be one of the most hazardous occupations worldwide. Normally forest workers operate in small groups and their area of work is usually isolated, and they are frequently changing locations. Another reason is that accidents in forestry remain largely unnoticed and hardly ever make the news. Still, the statistics give reason to worry.

### Accidents

Chainsaw operators are by far the most accident-prone group. In most cases of serious or fatal accidents, workers are injured by falling trees, branches and logs. Accidents usually occur during felling and other high-risk operations such as bringing down hung-ups or windblown trees.

The risk of an accident with dramatic consequences is aggravated when it occurs in an isolated area, far from a properly equipped medical centre. Accidents also affect the victim's family, especially where forest workers and their families live under poor conditions with no alternative sources of income.



### Occupational health hazards

Forest work is also characterized by serious health problems related to excessive physical workloads, noise, vibration, repetitive strain, injuries and stress among machine operators to name only the most significant (ILO, 1991).

In forest work exposure to accidents not only varies with the job and type of equipment used; exposure also depends on the employment status of the workers.

### Indirect costs of accidents

The importance of costs associated with accidents has not been addressed adequately. One reason might be that managers do not know the true cost of accidents. Typical costs of accidents include:

evacuation, treatment, rehabilitation, where provided, and/or early retirement;

loss of working time due to injuries;

time lost by other employees when an accident occurs;

replacement of injured employees by less skilled workers, which may result in lower productivity or lower quality of the work;

damage to equipment

The indirect costs are not often obvious and not always easy to assess by managers. Direct costs such as compensation, medical treatment and lost wages often make up only a minor portion of the total cost involved. Indirect costs might be several times higher. In addition, indirect costs are often uninsured costs and therefore not reimbursable.

Well-trained staff at all levels in a company is a precondition for productive and environmentally sound operations.

The following general conclusions may be drawn from the insight gained over the years by ILO involvement in the exchanges of experience in forest worker training:

preferably, forest workers should be trained at the workplace but outside normal production processes; training should be as practical as possible

forest managers, supervisors and foremen must be aware of training requirements and must organize work and provide working conditions so as to ensure that the skills of trained workers are used fully.

reduced impact logging (RIL) techniques will be difficult to implement

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## Occupational safety and health (OSH) and the effective application of RIL

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unless acceptable OSH and working conditions contribute to stabilize the work force and enable skill development; and not provide better market access through certification nor be in compliance with codes of practice, unless they meet essential social and labour standards

Common sense and anecdotal evidence suggest that training pays even though research on the cost-benefit ratio of investment in training in forestry is quite limited. It should be evident to decision makers that training is a prerequisite not only for sustainable operations but also for the financial viability of the company.

### Recommendations for the implementation of RIL

The ILO suggests that the following OSH criteria for sustainable forest management should be considered when implementing RIL (Poschen, 2000):

Safety and health policy and a management system are in place, which systematically identify hazards and preventive measures and ensure their implementation during operations.

All necessary tools, machines and substances are available at the work site and are in a safe and serviceable condition.

Safety and health requirements are taken into account in planning, organizing and supervising operations.

Where workers stay in camps, conditions for accommodation and nutrition comply at least with the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work:

The ILO code of practice on safety and health in forestry work has proven to be applicable under a wide variety of conditions. In the design and implementation of RIL it should be systematically used as a reference by decision makers and managers.

### References:

§ *Improving occupational safety and health: the International Labour Organization's contribution* -Peter Blombäck, Forestry and Wood

Industries Unit, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland

§ ILO. 1991. *Occupational safety and health in forestry*. Report III. Forestry and Wood Industries Committee, 2nd Session. ILO, Geneva.

§ FAO/ECE/ILO. 1997. *Safety and health in forestry are feasible*. Proc. Seminar, Emmental, Switzerland, October 1996.

§ Poschen, P. 2000. *Social criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. A guide to ILO texts*. Forest Certification Project Working Paper. International Labour Office, Geneva and GTZ, Eschborn, Germany.



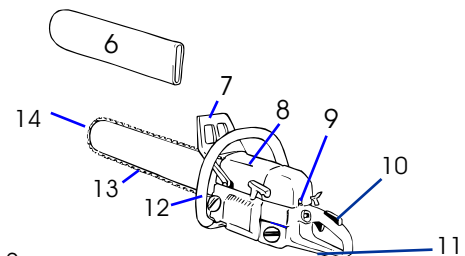
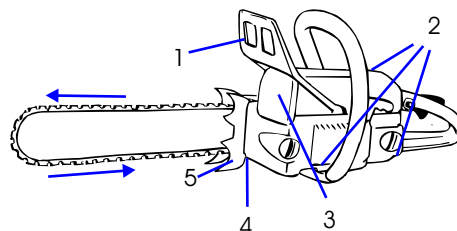
FTCI Staff in field gear, note personal protection equipment & first aid kit

### Active Safety Features on Stihl® 066 Chainsaw

The Stihl® MS066 Chainsaw is recommended for use to practice directional felling as part of reduced impact logging for among others its occupational health and safety features

- 1 Chain brake lever (front hand guard)
2. Anti vibration rubber buffers
3. Silencer / muffler (spark arrester)
4. Chain catcher (other side)
5. Spikes/dogs
6. Scabbard
7. Chain brake lever (front hand guard)

8. Cylinder cover
9. Master control
10. Throttle trigger interlock
11. Rear hand guard
12. Front handle
13. Low Kickback Chain
14. Roller tip



Apart from these safety features the Stihl® MS066 Chainsaw weighs only 7.4 kg (16.3 lb) much lighter than the Stihl® 070 which weighs 10.7 kg.



## FTCI conducts training in RIL in Suriname

FTCI instructors conducted a training program in reduced impact logging in Suriname for thirteen persons between 8 and 24 October 2003.

FTCI was sub-contracted by a Belgian consultancy firm - AGRER - to deliver a training programme in Reduced-Impact Logging as part of the project "Training in Sustainable Forest Management Techniques" on behalf of the Centre for Development of Enterprise of the European Union (CDE) with the support of the KKF (Surinamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and the timber sector in Suriname.

Participants included ten senior employees of seven timber companies, two forest rangers of SBB (Suriname's



Classroom session in Suriname

Forestry regulatory body) and one staff member of the research institute CELOS. All training took place in the interior: lectures and evaluations at N.V. Ansoe's Compound, while field exercises took place in a previously inventoried 100-ha block 6 km west of the compound. The compound is located in one of N.V. Ansoe's Concessions near Java, Marowijne District, Eastern Suriname. Twenty-one training modules covering the theoretical and practical basics of reduced impact logging were presented.



Demonstrating directional felling

Five staff members of FTCl were involved in the training: Peter van der Hout (team leader), Julian Pillay (Harvest planning specialist), Wilfred Jarvis (Instructor tree felling), Fred Lim (Instructor heavy machinery /skidding), and Alphonso George (Forest techni-

cian).

The training programme was financed by ITTO and CDE, while participants received financial support from WWF. Logistical support was provided by N.V. Ansoe. This included accommodation, meals, support staff during preparations and the provision of a bulldozer, a skidder and a front-end log loader.

Feedback from participants indicates that they highly appreciated the training course. Most participants were of the opinion that the course was essentially an introductory course to Reduced-Impact Logging and that further in-depth courses would be required to make them proficient. A number of recommendations for further training were put forward.



FTCl Instructors and participants

## CPEC Training

During the period 14-18 June 2004 the Guyana Forestry Commission, in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional HRD Programme for Economic Competitiveness (CPEC) conducted a training project for the forestry sector. The project was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The project involved the development of course curricula, preparation of manuals and training of trainers from the forestry sector in six areas. These areas were:

- Tree & Timber Identification
- Timber Grading
- New Forests Act
- Cost and Financial Accounting
- Practical Forest Mapping

Code of Practice and Forest Management Plans.

The Forestry Training Centre Inc. developed and prepared the manual for Practical Forest Mapping and during the week of training activities provided training for ten trainers who focussed specially on this area.



Trainers being instructed in the process of aerial photo interpretation by FTCl Instructors



Trainers being introduced to the GPS

The trainers were taught techniques for the delivery of the information found in each manual and the preparation and planning of lessons in general. The participants were also given an opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt by making short presentations on content of the manual.

## FAO Regional Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Continental Forestry of the Caribbean Subgroup within the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission was held in Guyana from 29 March to 2 April 2004.

The theme for the meeting was Reduced Impact Logging (RIL), and focussed on problems, advantages and strategies to promote RIL in the participating countries. Earlier meetings of the working group were held in Suriname (1999), Guyana (2001) and French Guyana (2003).

The meeting included demonstrations by the Forestry Training Centre Inc. of

the components of RIL at one of FTCI's satellite training sites: Variety Woods & Greenheart Ltd Concession, Charabaru, Upper Demerara.



FTCI Instructor and participants at FAO meeting

Present at the meeting were representatives from government agencies and the private sector of Suriname, Belize, French Guiana, and Guyana. VWGL provided logistical support in terms of accommodation and meals for participants. VWGL also made available its equipment - a bulldozer and a skidder - for use in the demonstrations.

During the meeting it emerged that discussions on the merits and practicality of RIL created ideal conditions for participants' understanding of the RIL concept. Topics that are normally discussed in offices are easier to comprehend when discussed under actual forest conditions.

## Steering Committee Members visit FTCI field site

On 18 and 20 April, 2004 members of FTCI Project Steering Committee and other invitee's visited the field site of the training centre at Mariwa Creek, TPL Concession. The group included Dr Emmanuel Ze Meka, Assistant Director, Forest Industry, ITTO; Mr Keister Evans, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Foundation; and Mr. Doodnauth Narine (Vice-President FPA).

Mr J. Evan Cresson, Machine Sales Manager Northern South America and the Caribbean for Caterpillar Inc.; Mr. Ramdat, Forest manager Toolsie Persaud Ltd and members of the media were among the visitors as well. Dr. Peter Van der Hout, Project Director FTCI, and Mr. Godfrey Marshall, Project Coordinator FTCI, accompanied the group.

The group witnessed the road and bridge construction process that was being undertaken by FTCI staffers.



From left Mr. Evans, Mr. Cresson, FTCI Staff and MACORP representative on the bridge being constructed by FTCI

## FTCI bids farewell to outgoing Admin Manager

Mrs. Celina Harewood, outgoing Administrative Manager, FTCI, said farewell on 30 July, 2004 after one year and nine months of service. She brought to the Training Centre fifty years of experience.

Members of staff sought her advice on many issues but on other occasions



were just satisfied to spend time in the company of a very pleasant and cheerful person.

Persons who frequented the office of FTCI or had reasons to interact with Mrs. Harewood on a regular basis will surely note the absence of a cheerful and courteous individual who always made visitors feel welcome.

Mrs. Harewood has been succeeded by Ms. Sonia Morris.

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