

Book review

Proceedings of the international symposium on strategies and designs for afforestation, reforestation and tree planting. Edited by K.F. Wiersum. Forestry Dept., Agricultural University, Wageningen, Netherlands. 1984. 438 pp., 32 papers. Hardbound, ISBN 90-220-0840-1, Price f 150.00, paperback, ISBN 90-220-0841-X, Price f 40.00 (for developing countries only)

The word 'forestation' has been used to cover the different activities of afforestation, reforestation, artificial regeneration, and tree planting outside the forests which are among the main concerns of foresters and those practicing agroforestry.

On the occasion of the first centennial of public forestry education and research in the Netherlands at Hinkeloor, the Wageningen University's Departments of Forestry have organized an International Symposium on the various approaches to forestation. 270 persons from 50 countries attended, representing a unique grouping of experts, exchanging their experiences from all parts of the world. Fortunately, all lectures presented were included in full length in the Proceedings of the Symposium and thus made available to a world-wide audience. The 26 contributions represent the state of knowledge in forestation in 1983.

As outlined by the members of the Forestry Departments, Wageningen, the publication of these proceedings has three aims:

- to provide decision makers, project people and others concerned with forestation with information on the planning and design of successful forestation programmes and projects.
- to stimulate more vigorous action on forestation.
- to stimulate further development of a general forestation theory that allows rational selection of appropriate forestation practices under different ecological and societal conditions.

The Symposium, and thus the Proceedings, have been subdivided into five Sessions:

Session 1: Afforestation and development: aims and objectives.

Session 2: Development of different afforestation systems

Session 3: Diagnostic methodologies for afforestation

Session 4: Analysis of specific design components of afforestation

Session 5: National and international action for afforestation.

A summary of the results and recommendations is given at the end of the book.

Agroforestry and related land uses was paid much attention and its contribution to social forest strategies fully recognized. So in drawing up strategies for forestation, a much wider range of approaches was considered than a decade ago. The following questions were highlighted:

- In view of the local ecological and societal situation, what are the outputs aimed for and who should benefit from them?
- How will the forest and tree resources be owned and who will supply the inputs for forestation?
- Should the strategy incorporate forestation aspects only or should it be integrated with other aspects of rural development and management of natural forests?

The Proceedings conclude with a final document in which, i.a., the following statements can be read:

For developing strategies attention should be focussed on the following key factors:

- Definition of the actual and new roles of forestry institutions and the forester's profession at the national and local level, taking into account the need for an approach, which is interdisciplinary and more responsive to the needs as they are perceived by local people.
- Reliable diagnostic tools and monitoring devices, simple to the extent of the possible, allowing proper land evaluation and including optional tools of simulation models and sensitivity analysis for industrial plantations, which pay due attention to ecosystems as well as to social, technical and economic factors.
- Optimized qualitative and quantitative harmonization between production system, use of labour and technology, set of products and end-uses, including the financial aspects.

— Integration of national forestation policies into an international context with a view to optimize cooperation amongst countries'.

The organizers of the Symposium and the editor of the Proceedings are to be congratulated for their valuable contribution to solving problems of 'forestation' in all parts of the world. Last not least it should be gratefully acknowledged that this book is made available at a price of only f 40.00 (Dutch guilders) (about 12 US \$) as a paperback for developing countries.

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