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**JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

Seminar on  
**AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on  
Forest Technology, Management and Training

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 15-19 September 2002

**Creating New Native Woodlands in Scotland**

Basic paper by Mr. Stephen A. Smith

**Summary**

Over the past 80 years, commercial forests, predominantly of Sitka spruce, have been established on a large scale throughout the uplands of Scotland. The techniques used to achieve this have tended to be intensive, often with deep ploughing and drainage followed by herbicide and/or fertiliser input.

Government policy over the last 10-15 years has shifted away from the planting of new commercial forests, seeking instead to encourage the creation of new native woodlands, often on very wet, exposed and nutrient-poor sites in the Highlands. The intensive establishment methods used successfully with commercial species are not considered to be sustainable forest management for such new native woodlands, and hence 'low input' establishment regimes have been favoured. It has become apparent that many of these 'low input' schemes are having problems in becoming established, with broadleaf species in particular failing or dying back.

A survey, planned for the summer of 2002, will investigate 10 new native woodland sites (including both successful and failed schemes), in an attempt to identify the factors contributing to the failures. This paper will present the results, discussion and conclusions from this survey work. In addition to the recent survey, some research has been carried out into the establishment of native species. However, the vast majority of research has been directed at commercial forests. The most relevant results from these experiments will be presented, hopefully in support of the survey findings.

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