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Seminar on
AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

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Afforestation and Continuous Cover Forestry

Basic paper by Dr. Arne Pommerening

Summary

Over the past decade or so, continuous cover forestry (CCF) has become a suitable forest management tool to meet the sustainability requirements that are part of the Rio-Helsinki process. CCF may be said to include collectively those silvicultural systems that involve continuous and uninterrupted maintenance of the forest. It endeavours to secure 'a continuous harmonious cooperation of all factors of growth'. In forests treated in such a manner, the soil is never exposed and the forest cover is continuously maintained over every part of the area. CCF systems are developed both at stand establishment and through transformation. Britain and Ireland, together with many other European countries, are currently transforming huge blocks of even-aged coniferous plantations to some form of mixed uneven-aged woodlands. But there is also the option to establish such woodlands, either through re-stocking or by afforesting former agricultural land. Methods are available to create mixed woodlands from scratch using nursery crops. Some tree species even require a form of cover in order to develop desirable wood properties. Although these methods are not new and have proven to be successful – particularly in windy climates – their application has been limited so far. This paper will explore the potential of these methods.
