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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

**Afforestation and Climate Change: A Canadian Perspective**

Basic paper by Mr. F.M. Dunn and Mr. J.J. Farrell

**Summary**

Afforestation – establishing tree cover on land not previously forested – might seem a peculiar activity in a country with 417.6 million hectares of natural forest. In the past, afforestation has been primarily focussed on lands that were cleared for agriculture at the turn of the century, determined to be unsuitable for farming, abandoned and were gradually deteriorated through the combined effects of wind and water. Since that time, the pace of afforestation has slowed and has been driven by a mix of objectives including watershed protection, fibre production and site rehabilitation. Since the ratification of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 and the advent of the Kyoto Protocol in 1998, the prospect of afforestation has new economic and environmental dimensions.

The presentation will offer a perspective of the potential for incorporating carbon sequestration and management considerations into an assessment of the potential for broader scale afforestation on privately held lands in Canada. Offering both a national and regional perspective (Province of Ontario), it will

include a brief history of afforestation on private lands, some analysis of trends and their drivers, some policy perspectives of afforestation as an element of a broader strategy in landscape management and the benefits derived from these past activities. Consideration will be given to the need for a comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management to ensure maximum public understanding and support. The paper will then examine the implications of expanded tree cover in the context of climate change and the potential incentives provided under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol. It will include information on the potential suitable land available, examine some of the issues around incentives (both direct and market based) given the alternative options facing landowners for land use, and offer some examples of trials that are already underway. It will profile the suite of benefits – including carbon management – that afforestation may provide in a Canadian context. Finally, it will propose some potential future scenarios for afforestation in Canada.

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