

OFFICIAL REPORT OF FORESTRY IN Ukraine

Subject area 1:

Forests are the national treasure of Ukraine. According to purposes and localization they perform a wide array of environmental (water management, protective, sanitary-hygienic, recreative etc.) functions that restrict their commercial use. Reforestation has become of an extensive character for the last decades, i.e. the area of new plantations exceeds the territory of cut out forests. It is mostly achieved by the reforestation of useless agricultural land. Conifer plantations occupy 42% of the total forest cover, pine (*Pinus silvestris* L.) –33%. Deciduous hardwood plantations occupy 43%, European oak (*Quercus robur* L.) and beech - 32%.

There is only 0,18 ha of forests and 33 m³ of wood per capita in Ukraine.

Climatic, geological and anthropogenic factors influenced present day extension of forests in Ukraine. The whole period of mankind development has been characterized by an extensive deforestation. As historical sources testify in ancient times percentage of forest cover constituted 43% in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian forests are managed by the state authority headed by the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine. The State Forestry Committee manages about 380 enterprises and organizations, among them 294 state forestry enterprises and specialized forest-hunting farms, 2 national protected parks and 6 nature reserves.

Development and realization of forestry policy in Ukraine is based on the data of wood supply and changes in economy. It balances protection of forest ecosystems with sustainable, multifunctional forest management.

In 1994 the Ukrainian Parliament has adopted the Forest Code of Ukraine which regulates forestry management in modern socio-economic conditions and is aimed at conservation, improvement of wood quality and sustainable forest management.

In 2002 the Parliament of Ukraine has adopted a new Land Code of Ukraine. Nowadays changes in land ownership cause the necessity for the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine to develop a new version of the Forest Code of Ukraine.

In April 2002 the government of Ukraine has adopted the programme Forests of Ukraine for 2002-2015. Realization of this programme extends forest covered territories and other wooded lands to 11,3 mln. ha and percentage of forests cover will be increased from 15,6% to 16,1%.

The major aims of the Ukrainian forestry management are:

- extension of forests covered areas;
- conservation of biological diversity in forest ecosystems;
- increasing of the stability, resistance and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems towards stresses; protection against fire, pests, diseases, climate changes and negative anthropogenic impacts;
- sustainable forest management which satisfies social demands;

- forest agromelioration and steppe forests cultivation.

Most of Ukrainian forests grow in uneven-aged stands. Forest stands are classified according to their age: young growth – 32%, medium-aged trees – 44%, ripening – 13%, mature – 11%. The predominance of young trees is a result of a large-scaled reforestation of the territories deforested in the reconstruction period after the Great Patriotic War (World War II).

In different natural zones of Ukraine percentage of forest cover varies a lot and it is not optimal. At the territory with optimal percentage of forest cover forest as the most complex and powerful vegetable unit exerts positive influence on climate, soil, surface water flow and, of course, provides necessary commercial timber resources. For Ukraine optimal percentage of forest cover constitutes 19,0%, for Polissya (Forest zone) – 32,0% (actual 26,8%), for Lisostep (Forest-steppe zone) – 18,0% (actual 13,0%), for Step (Steppe zone) – 9,0% (actual 5,3%), for Carpathians – 45,0% (actual 42,0%), for Crimea – 19,0% (actual 10,4%).

Besides forests of Polissya (Forest zone) and Carpathians perform ecological and commercial functions and forests of Lisostep (Forest-steppe zone), Step (Steppe zone) and forests of Crimea perform water-protective, protective, sanitary-hygienic and other ecological functions.

In order to collect information of forest health, forest fund dynamics, damage of forests as a result of anthropogenic, biotic and abiotic factors State Forestry Committee of Ukraine organizes observation of forest covered territories. A system of ecological monitoring includes surface control and distance sensing.

The development of Ukrainian forests ecological monitoring system started in 1989 within the framework of International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests under the aegis of UN European Economical Commission Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. Today forests of 14 regions (14 of 25) are monitored.

Since 1995 forests are monitored under the American Programme of Forest Health Monitoring. The monitoring programme is realized cooperatively with USDA Forest Service and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Subject area 2:

Complicated ecological situation and a deficiency of wood resources creates a contradiction: to conserve forests and to supply wood. Lately decline in production decreased demand for timber. Wood is harvested according to scientific norm - annual cutting, adopted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Annually in Ukraine there harvested about 13 mln. cubic metres of wood. 45% of wood is harvested in main cuttings, 70% of this wood is round. In Ukraine there processed wastewood and non-wood products. In terms of money it constitutes 30% of harvested wood.

Wood is supplied to the internal markets and exported. Main consumers of wood are enterprises of building and agroindustrial complexes, furniture and coal-mining industries.

Lately enterprises of the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine started to establish external economic relations. Today over 40 firms from Italy, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Slovakia and some other countries cooperate with state forestry enterprises. State forestry

enterprises export various half-finished products, sawn wood, resin, roundwood and low-quality engineered wood products for the production of fibreboard, particle board and woodpulp.

The foreground task of Ukrainian forestry is creation of new forests on useless agricultural lands, agromeliorative forests, increasing the productivity and protective functions of forests.

As Ukraine is an agro-industrial country with a low percentage of forest cover, protective afforestation is extremely important here. Over 5 mln. ha of lands is under erosion which is caused by high level of ploughing up of agricultural lands - 81%. Agricultural afforestation is practiced longer than a century and a half in Ukraine.

Afforestation of new territories and creation of protective forests decreases influence of erosion on agricultural lands.

However the problem of land protection by agricultural afforestation is not solved yet, and land erosion is still rather intensive. In Ukraine there remain large territories which can not be used for agriculture (about 500 thd. ha) but can be afforested.

In Ukraine reforestation depends upon nature-climatic zones. So in Carpathians and Polissya (Forest zone) forests are planted and there used natural regeneration. In regions of Lisostep (Forest-steppe zone) and Step (Steppe zone) forests are planted and sown, in Crimea they are only planted.

In regions with appropriate nature conditions forest enterprises are trying to increase nature regeneration which now constitutes 21% of total forest regeneration and is one of the most profitable methods of forest regeneration.

Subject area 3:

The scientific background is provided by Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Agromelioration (UkrSRIF&FM) and Ukrainian Mountain Forestry Research Institute (UMFRI), and 9 research stations.

In Ukraine specialists training is performed at the National Agricultural University (Kiev), Ukrainian State University of Forestry and Forest Industries (Lviv) and Kharkiv National Agricultural University (Kharkiv).

Besides forestry specialists are trained in 8 forestry colleges. At these colleges students acquire professions in forestry, harvesting and logging, forestry equipment, wood processing technologies, hunting and accounting.

Directors and forestry specialists get advanced training in the Ukrainian forestry staff training center "Ukrcentrkadrylis". This organization has a number of training programmes in forestry schools and colleges for foresters, hunters and other workers to get further education.

In Ukraine state policy regulates safety conditions for forestry workers. They are based on the priority of life and health at work. In each enterprise, according to the Law on Safety of Labour, there exist a department responsible for the safety of labour, which is subordinated to a director.

The most dangerous work in forestry is harvesting. State Forestry Committee of Ukraine developed and introduced a package plan of safety control, which should be used by managers to create safety conditions of work. There was certified a laboratory of safety labour which controls the working environment.

Everybody knows the consequences of Chernobyl catastrophe. Great damage was caused to Ukrainian forests. Forests of Polissya Region, where the catastrophe happened, constitute 40% of Ukrainian forests. More then 50 forestry enterprises are situated there. Workers of these enterprises work in radiation area and are exposed to radiation.

In forestry enterprises situated in polluted areas workers of safety labour department have organized radiation monitoring in order to control the radiation dose and there introduces part-time regimes of woks, which depend upon the degree of pollution. In these areas there observed sanitary-hygienic requirements.

The report is presented by the Department of science and information of the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine

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