Future of forestry work - opportunities and threats for the most traditional green job

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Forestry work – *THE* green job

- a **green** workplace
- produces a **green** product
- contributes to sustainable management and nature protection
- a real profession with good future prospects

Forest workers in Germany around 1900 (Photo: www.meisburg.de)

Captured from a new video to advertise the vocational education for professional forest workers in Germany (Photo: KWF)

Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey
Increasing tasks and rising work volume

- Forecast for the next decades: Increased utilisation of timber and woody biomass for industry and energy by round 50 % (?)
- There is a **demand** for **more and higher** skilled **workers** and **contractors**!

### Potential to grow

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<th>North Europe</th>
<th>Central West</th>
<th>East Europe</th>
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<td>Motor-manual work</td>
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<td>Mechanised harvesting</td>
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<td>Management Services</td>
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<td>Bio-energy related services</td>
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Threat of demographic change

- Europe’s society is ageing - and the forestry work force too.
- 25% of the totally employed people in forestry in the FOREST EUROPE countries are 50 years and older.
- In the Nordic countries 37% of forest machine operators are 50 years and older.
- The forest sector will more and more compete with other sectors for competent new entrants!

EUROPE: An ageing society

How to make forestry work „greener“: Challenges to increase health and productivity

• Reduction of accidents is a continuing challenge, particularly in manual and motor-manual work.
• Mechanization can reduce accident risks and increase productivity, but non-accident injuries and diseases need higher attention (machine operators disease!)
• Knowledge about health and safety and work organization needs to be applied (COMFOR!). Advanced work organization will reduce stress and strain.
• Train and educate!
• Apply Good Practice!
Future of Forestry Work

• Forest sectors will need highly competent workers and contractors in sufficient numbers!
  
  From “loggers” to high tech operators.

• Many workers will become independent entrepreneurs and need competences in:
  – general management
    • business calculation, bookkeeping
  – personnel management and leadership
    • labour legislation
    • health and safety
  – technology, process management, work planning and work organisation
  – forest ecosystem management, incl. forest certification requirements
Order of the day: Increase attractiveness of forestry work

- Forestry competes with many sectors for motivated and talented workers!
- Forestry work needs to improve its image.
- Working conditions, health and safety and career opportunities need to be improved to make forestry work more attractive.
- Profitability of forest operations must be improved.

Forestry Work must be somehow attractive!?
Capacity building in forest operations—a mutual task for the forest sector!

Mutual initiatives are needed to

• motivate and support private enterprises to train young entrants;
• increase public investment in vocational training;
• encourage public-private or industry-private partnerships for training and education;
• ensure application of good practice, e.g. by skills certificates (ECC, Concert) and contractor certificates;
• enhance a fair and transparent market environment (good prices for good services!);
• support research on
  – forest operations and working conditions,
  – socio-economic frame conditions for securing future labour force in the forest sector,
  – business models and co-operation in forest operations.