

Seminar on “Innovation in the Forest-Based Sector – Prerequisite for the Green Economy”

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 22 April 2013

Back to back with the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and
InnovaWood General Assembly

Organizers

InnovaWood Scientific network
UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Scope and Purpose of the Seminar

Forest sector innovation plays a key role on the road towards a green economy. Innovation can be considered as a prerequisite for the green economy, leading towards a sustainable future where most products originate from renewable resources and materials are chosen according to their overall environmental impact.

In line with the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, ECE and FAO encourage the promotion of sustainable production and consumption of forest products, the use of life cycle assessment to evaluate the environmental performance of processes, services or products, and active communication with all stakeholders from the environmental benefits of wood.

This seminar is divided into two parts: **(1) The Framework for Forest-Based Sector Innovation**, which will give an overview of the current situation on innovation in the forest sector and how it could assist the transition towards a green economy and **(2) Examples of Forest-Based Sector Innovation in Business**, including examples of innovation in processes, products and materials. Both parts will include 4 presentations and a panel discussion. Examples will cover the traditional wood industry as well as emerging applications such as new bio-based textile fibers. The panel discussions (1 hour each) will be facilitated by a moderator.

The speakers will include high level experts who are able to provide an overview of the global situation in innovation in the forest sector, information about progress made as well as the challenges and the bottlenecks faced by businesses. The seminar will gather information and produce **recommendations for the next “Forest Products Annual Market Review”** and a **policy brief** on the Forest Sector Innovation.

Preliminary Programme

10:00 – 12:00 The Framework for Forest-Based Sector Innovation

(4) presentations on:

- **Overview of forest sector innovation**
Strength, weaknesses and opportunities for the sector
- **Innovation gaps/opportunities/barriers**
- **Financial and institutional tools**
- **Scientific and business tools**

12:00 – 13:00 Panel discussion

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch

**15:00 – 17:00 Examples of Forest-Based Sector Innovation in Business
(4) presentations on**

- Processes
- Products
- Materials

Each presentation should include not only the success stories but also information on the challenges or barriers for innovation, and possible examples how to overcome them.

17:00 – 18:00 Panel discussion

Rapporteurs will collect 4-5 key points from the panel discussions.

End of the Joint Seminar