

IUFRO DIVISION 5 CONFERENCE

The International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) held its World Congress 8–13 August 2005 in Brisbane, Australia. The overall theme of the conference was “Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology.” This theme was divided into several sub-themes, one of which was “*Promoting economic development through improvements to the forest–wood and products chain.*”

The components of this sub-theme were further described as:

- The forest–wood chain, from trees to forest products
- Forest planning to optimise efficiency
- Adapting silviculture to meet end-product requirements
- Regional development through better value chains from forest to forest products
- Multipliers for determining forestry benefits to communities
- Developments in the marketing of forest products and services.

Economic development is a very important component of forestry research. The well-being of local communities, and even an entire country, can depend on the efficient and resourceful use of forest products. Balancing the need for clean water resources, a diversity of plant and animal populations, increasing demand for developed land and food (croplands) as population increases, and maintenance of the traditional values of native peoples with that of development for better forest products can present challenging problems for research.

The two papers published address this problem, with different emphasis areas and different points of view. After the Congress they were submitted for refereeing and preparation for publication in this issue of the NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF FORESTRY SCIENCE.

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