Development and Needs in International Forest Research

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Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières
Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal
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CONTENT

- Provision and sharing of information
- Knowledge and research priority setting
- Research capacity
- Funding for research
- Interdisciplinary research
- Science-policy interaction
- Conclusions

PROVISION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION

Developments

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have enhanced the provision and sharing of information
- Information services have been established, including a Global Forest Information Service
- At same time, ICT continues to be unequally distributed on a global scale

PROVISION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION

Needs

- Improve ICT infrastructure of forest research organizations particularly in developing countries and strengthen necessary skills
- Support regional and global networking activities in generating and providing forest data and information
- Promote better recognition of user needs in information dissemination

KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH PRIORITY SETTING

Developments

- Comprehensive forest-related scientific knowledge (FRKS) has been generated at all levels
- Lack of research capacity has limited effective, timely science contributions in many developing countries
- Regional networking important for setting priorities for research and reducing duplication of effort

KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH PRIORITY SETTING

Needs

- Recognize contribution of forest research to priority areas of SFM
- At same time, develop stronger focus on user needs in setting research priorities, increase interaction with stakeholders
- Support co-operation and networking of forest research organizations in priority setting, in particular at regional level

RESEARCH CAPACITY

Developments

- Education and training activities and networking have helped enhance forest research capacity
- Global and regional networking has helped mobilize a critical mass of scientists and fostered mutual learning
- Nevertheless, research capacity continues to be critically inadequate in many regions, particularly among developing countries

RESEARCH CAPACITY

Needs

- Support effective actions to overcome constraints to research in developing countries
- Support training and education of scientists as a key mechanism for transferring FSRK
- Support regional networks that serve as mutual learning platforms

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

Developments

- Public funding for forest research, including ODA, on the decline in many countries
- Private sector investment has increased mostly in developed countries, but its focus is on a limited range of topics

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

Needs

- Increase public funding for research addressing environmental and social benefits of forests
- Place increasing emphasis on forest research that contributes to resolution of broader sustainable development issues
- Demonstrate more clearly “on the ground” impact of forest research

INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Development

- Addressing priority areas of sustainable development requires coordinated approaches across sectoral boundaries

Need

- Establish meaningful interactions and linkages between different research fields and disciplines

SCIENCE – POLICY INTERACTION

Developments

- Science-policy interaction has improved at international level, but further progress is needed
- Linkages between science and policy are still weak in particular in developing countries
- Involvement of science in nfps and decentralization processes are important

SCIENCE – POLICY INTERACTION

Needs

- Promote mechanisms for continuous science-policy interaction, in particular within countries
- Enhance capacities of organizations and scientists to participate in policy development processes
- Provide greater incentives for scientists' engagement at science-policy interface

CONCLUSIONS

- Scientific information and knowledge needs to be further expanded – networking important
- Funding and capacity problems have to be overcome to strengthen science contribution to all aspects of SFM
- Increased engagement at science-policy interface and across sectoral boundaries important