Latvian Forest Owners’ Association;
Private Forestry in Latvia

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Latvian Forest Owners’ Association (LMIB)

• Founded in 2005
• Members – private persons, companies, municipalities
• Members’ forest area account for 60% of the total forest in Latvia
• Collaboration with regional forest owners’ associations and cooperatives
Mission

- The mission of the Latvian Forest Owners' Association is to promote sustainable and economically viable forestry development in Latvia by developing conditions for forestry management where the legislation does not hinder taking well-grounded decisions and where the state administration have created rational and effective administrative procedures that do not hinder entrepreneurship.
Representation

- LMIB is represented in the following organizations:
  - Advisory Board on Forestry with the Ministry of Agriculture
  - Advisory Board on Hunting with the Ministry of Agriculture
  - Collaboration Board for Agriculture Organizations
  - A.o.
  - CEPF (European Forest Owners Confederation)
  - ELO (European Landowners Organization)
  - EC Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork
Forest Ownership

• Forest covers 52% of the territory; area – 3,2 mil ha
• State ownership ~ 1,5 mil ha, other ownership forest (private, municipal, church) ~ 1,7 mil ha
• Number of forest owners – 145 000
During the last 10 years consolidation process has decreased the number of small properties.
Tree Species in Private Forests (by area)

- Birch: 35%
- Pine: 18%
- Spruce: 13%
- Common Alder: 18%
- Aspen: 9%
- Oak, Ash: 2%
- Black Alder: 5%
Major Recent Achievements

• Amendments in the Law on Protective Belts.
  • Favourable conditions on forest growing in the protective belts along electric lines.
• Amendments in the Law on Compensation for Restrictions on Management Activities
• Proposals for RDP (2014-2020)
• The law on land market – FO discriminating conditions were not included.
• Promotion of FO cooperation
Agenda 2015-2016 (I)

- Effectiveness of the Regulation of RDP 2014-2020 forestry activities
- Not to allow increasing the area of protected territories without clearly set criteria for establishing ones; National policy documents. Nationa Habitat inventory.
Agenda 2015-2016 (II)

- Proposals for amendments in regulation on forest management in the protective belts along waterbodies
LFOA’s Activities in FO Education and Information (I)

- «Forest Research Days» - 2 day seminar on research in forestry in collaboration with State Forestry Research Institute SILAVA, annual activity;
LFOA’s Activities in FO Education and Information (II)

• Information on various forestry related issues in our members’ meetings:
  • Forest protection against insects and diseases; monitoring results; (SILAVA)
  • Timber markets, trends; (Forest Industry Federation)
  • Tax issues (State Revenue Service)
  • A.o.
FO Interest in the Following Topics (I)

- Forestry related legislation – FO rights and obligations
- Forest inventory and data use in forest management
- Use of data from *State Data Base on Forests* in forest management planning.
- Ways to impact forest hydrology
- Establishment, management and risks of fast growing tree species. Establishment of short rotation coppice.
- Replacement of non-productive forest stands
- Forest regeneration, early thinnings, debranching.
FO Interest in the Following Topics (II)

- Birch stand thinning models. Specifics of plantation forest management.
- Forest soil types and management decisions
- Digital maps, coordinate measuring
- Tree growth models
- Forest insects and diseases.
- Forest management along waterbodies and waterflows.
- How to return overgrown areas into agriculture.
Thank you!

Latvian Forest Owners’ Association
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