

Implementing A Model Of Sustainable Forestry Development In Argentina And Uruguay

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Geographic Location

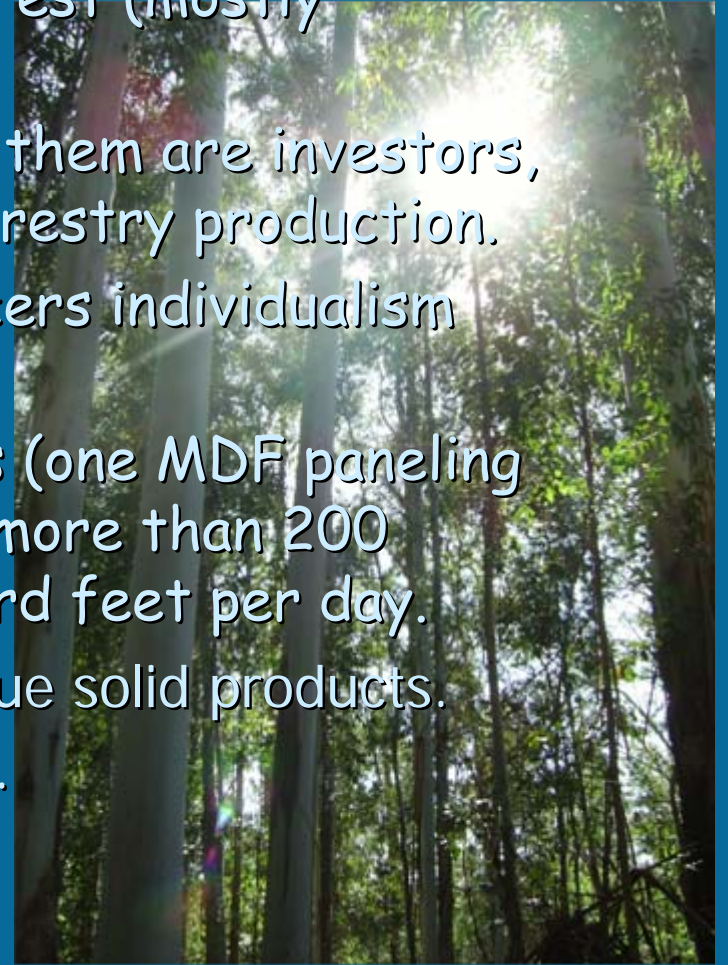


Entre Ríos



Initial Situation

- 95.000 ha of fast growing plantation forest (mostly *Eucalyptus spp.*)
- 1500 private forest producers, most of them are investors, without tradition or knowledge about forestry production.
- In most of the small and medium producers individualism prevails .
- Forest industry includes two board mills (one MDF paneling line and three particle board lines) and more than 200 sawmills producing 3,000 to 30,000 board feet per day.
- Scarce of quality sawnwood for higher value solid products.
- Lack of grading rules for kiln dried lumber.
- Lack of trained and skilled workers.
- Existence of a non formal labor market.
- The sector was neither vertically nor horizontally integrated.



Initial Situation



- The Agricultural Experimental Station Concordia of INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology) in Entre Ríos, Argentina, works for the integration of the forest chain in the region. Through INTA research and extension projects and articulating with the Program "Cambio Rural" of the SAGPyA (Secretariat for Agriculture, Cattle, Fishes and Food) actions have been undertaken in order to facilitate the organization of small and medium forest producers in the Northeast of the Entre Ríos province.

In 2004 ...

- Project “Installation of a Sustainable Forestry development Model in Argentina and Uruguay”, was implemented through an agreement between INTA and the NGO SOCODEVI (Society of Cooperation for the International Development) based in Quebec, Canada.

The objectives of the project were:

- To contribute to the development of a regional forest economy that offers socioeconomic benefits to the involved communities.
- To promote the sustainable forestry development of Uruguay and Argentina linking the actors of the chain (forest owners, forest workers and the industry) and transferring to them knowledge and technologies.

Developed Model

[Modelo Forestal Innovador.ppt](#)

(base on a Canadian example)

- relies on four strategic actions:
 - An associative management of the roundwood production that allows the forest owners to achieve a significant volume of wood supply and to enter in the forest business with best performance.
 - A specialization of the forest workers and the conformation of cooperatives that allows them to offer qualified technical services at competitive prices.
 - A strategic alliance between the forest owners and the cooperatives of forest workers to implement the established Annual Forest Plan, assuring the quality of the applied silvicultural practices and adapting their management to the requirements of the forest certification.
 - A joint venture between forest owners, forest workers and the forest industry managers for the processing of the wood supplied by the forest owners.

Results

- The group of thirty forests owners achieved significant advances concerning the associative administration of their forests. Every forest owner has a **Forestry Management Plan (FMP)** of their plantations and is involved in a **General Management Plan (GMP)**, where the silvicultural activities to be implemented during the following years are described. Both planning tools are required for the sustainable management of the plantations belonging to one forest producer (FMP) or to the associated producers (GMP). The number of associated forest owners assessed through the Program "Cambio Rural" has increased. Furthermore the **formal and informal communication** between actors of the sector has improved during the project and it continues.

Results

- The industrial sector has been able to increase their productivity and the quality of the produced lumber, due fundamentally to the training of their workers. The firms that produce impregnated poles and posts conformed also an association in order to improve the quality of their products.
- New applications for the lumber of eucalypts have been developed. A prototype wooden house, applying Canadian technology using *Eucalyptus grandis* lumber, has been constructed. A standard for kiln-dried lumber for appearance applications has been redacted and presented to the sawmill managers.

Results

- At the end of the project, in June 2007, a Cooperative conformed by well qualified forest workers was operating in the region. The qualification of the forest workers during the project involved silvicultural practices so as business administration. Nowadays the Cooperative of forest workers presents different managerial problems.

Conclusions

- The model adopted from the experience in Quebec, Canada, adapts well to the forest context of several countries of the South Cone, such as the case of Argentina.
- Through the Program "Cambio Rural" the horizontal integration of actors of the forest sector is possible. The experience of this Program with land and forest producers could be extended to other segments of the chain (forest workers, carpenters, etc.).
- The cooperatives of forest workers, or any formal company, cannot compete in a non formal labor market. To promote the formal work and to generate better standards of living, the State should promote fair competitiveness.

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A scenic landscape featuring a pond, a wooden dock, tall grasses, and a blue sky with white clouds. The foreground is dominated by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the middle ground, a wooden dock extends into a calm pond that reflects the sky and clouds. The background consists of a lush green field and a dense line of trees under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

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Thanks ...