



COST ACTION FP1301

“Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests – an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector (EuroCoppice)”

Minutes of the Joint WG2 (Ecology and silvicultural management) and WG3 (Utilization and products) ”Interface between silviculture and production”

CNR Headquarters, Rome

11-12 October 2016

Participants

WG2: Joao Carvalho and Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu (in the minutes reported as Noro)

WG3: Natascia Magagnotti, Philippe Ruch, Raffaele Spinelli, Eduardo Tolosana

Note: *Patrick Pyttel from WG2 was invited but he was not able to attend the meeting*

11 October 2016

At 9:00, Natascia and Raffaele welcome the participants at CNR. Natascia volunteers to write the minutes and is appointed rapporteur. The agenda sent last June by Raffaele was unanimously adopted.

Raffaele presents the situation in the Italian silviculture (light thinning, past emphasis on conversion, market etc.) to start discussion about the interface between silviculture and production.

Eduardo, Philippe, Joao and Noro present some examples regarding coppice forestry, products, management and utilization in their own countries, and in other realities like the Balkans and Turkey.

After discussing at least one hour, participants agree to start writing the document with the list of recommendations for practitioners and policy-makers, highlighting the limits posed by silviculture and by economics and covering aspects related to soil damages and fertility, environmental protection and social issues.

Raffaele proposes a draft format of max. 4 pages, divided according to four sections, as follows: one section related to silviculture considerations, one to harvesting, one with some suggestions and recommendations for possible compromise solutions and finally one with a short conclusive remark.

For each section, relevant aspects are discussed and written as keywords useful for the production of the document.

The title “Active management of traditional coppice forests: interface between silviculture and operations” of the document is accepted by everyone.

Everyone agree to start with the section “Considerations for active coppice management “ covering the relevance of a sustainable management in all terms (economic, ecological, social). Importance of species, markets, labor costs, sufficient annual utilization, quality cut, soil protection are enlightened and supported by the group.

After this section, participants agree to write “Coppice and coppice silviculture” section taking some ideas from silvicultural guidelines for coppice forests in Europe produced by WG2.

We decide to focus on: the influence of different forms of coppice, species, tree age, season of cutting, site conditions, the result of abandonment and coppice survival, conversion to high forests, restauration of coppice forests, new market opportunity offered by modern bio-economy and different services provided by coppice stands (amenity, cultural and biodiversity services).

At 17:00 the meeting is adjourned, after the successful result of writing 2 sections. We agree to meet at 19:00 for a joint dinner and to start the following day at 8:30 instead of 9:00.

12 October 2016

At 8:30, Natascia and Raffaele welcome the participants at CNR. We start reading the sections written yesterday for having consistency with the next section and avoid repetitions. After that, we discuss and compile the section related to harvesting in traditional coppice stands including list of wood and non-wood products, potential markets (local, regional, international and niche markets), considerations about high labor costs and relative shortage, technologies progress with the introduction of mechanized felling, possible undesired effects (soil, stump and stand damage), terrain conditions, importance of tree size and harvest intensity and safety.

Short conclusive statements imply that coppice forest represents an important renewable resource for Europe with a large potential but to unlock this full potential, a strong connection between silviculture and forest operations is required.

We conclude our meeting re-reading the entire draft, checking for misspelling, and if it is easy to read and follow also from non-experts.

We agree to insert the list of authors in alphabetic order since everyone has contributed to the document.

We promise to add some pictures as soon as possible. Pictures will be sent to Raffaele and Natascia who will add them to the document.

We agree to ask to the coordinator of Eurocoppice to consider this document as FAD.

We agree to try to submit this document to an international scientific journal as short communication or similar. Raffaele agree to try first to one of the IForest editors a preliminary comment.

We agree to be ready to add other parts if required (such as introduction, tables, and references)

At 14:00 we congratulate each other for this very fruitful meeting and declare it concluded.