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SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE COMPLEX USE AND
REFORESTATION OF CEDAR FORESTS

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SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE COMPLEX USE AND
REFORESTATION OF CEDAR FORESTS

Following is a translation of an article by G. V. Krylov and Yu. P. Khlonov in Izvestiya Sibirskogo Otdeleniya AN SSSR (News of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR), No. 11, Novosibirsk, 1959, pages 105-107.

A scientific-technical conference on the complex use and reforestation of cedar forests, organized by the Main Administration for Forestry and Field-Protective Afforestation of the Ministry of Agriculture RSFSR, the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, the Department for Afforestation and Land and Forest Reclamation of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences Imeni V. I. Lenin (VASKhNIL), the Scientific-Technical Society of the Timber Industry (Novosibirsk Administration), and the Scientific-Technical Society of Agriculture and Afforestation, was held in Novosibirsk on 15-17 September 1959.

The conference was attended by representatives from the Biological, Forest and Wood Institute and the Chemical-Metallurgical Institute subordinate to the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, the Department for Afforestation and Land and Forest Reclamation of VASKhNIL, the Far East Institute for Timber Industry, the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Agricultural and Forest Melioration (VNIALMI), the Siberian State Institute for Design and Planning in the Lumber, Timber-Floating and Woodworking Industries (Sibgiprolesprom), the All-Union Association "Lesproyekt" (All-Union Forest Aerial Photographic Survey Association of the Main Forestry Administration in the Ministry of Agriculture USSR), the Leningrad Technical Lumber Academy Imeni S. M. Kirov, the Siberian Technological Institute, the Siberian Scientific Research Institute of the Lumber Industry, the Buryat Complex Scientific Research Institute, and from other scientific and educational establishments in the RSFSR. Members of industrial organizations attending the conference included workers of forest administrations and lumber enterprises in Altay, Krasnoyarsk, Khabarovsk and Primorskiy krays, and in Novosibirskaya, Tomskaya, Omskaya, Kemerovskaya, Sverdlovskaya, Tyumenskaya, Chitinskaya, and Irkutskaya oblasts, members of the Main Administration for the Lumber Industry of the Ministry of Agriculture RSFSR and of its special cedar field team, as well as a representative from the Ministry of Afforestation and Lumber Industry of the Latvian SSR, and workers in the forestry service, planning organizations and sovnarkhozes (councils of national economy) of Siberia. A total of about 200 persons representing 65 organizations took part in the conference.

A total of 16 reports and papers were presented and discussed at the conference; these reports, presented by scientists and industrial personnel, described the results of studies conducted on Siberian and Korean cedars, on the trends of their complex (combined) utilization, and also on the restoration and expansion of cedar areas in Siberia, the Urals, Kazakhstan, and the Far East. The conference was opened by Academician A. S. Yablokov (Member of the Academy and Secretary of the Department for Afforestation and Land and Forest Reclamation at VASKhNIL).

An extensive report on the condition and problems concerned with the utilization and reforestation of cedar forests in the RSFSR was presented by A. F. Mukin (Main Forestry Administration of the RSFSR) and Doctor of Biological Sciences G. V. Krylov (Biological Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR).

These two men gave a detailed description of the condition of cedar groves, noting the low level of forestry operations in wide forest areas planted predominantly or partially with Siberian and Korean cedars. The determination and study of forest resources has not yet been completed and there are still wide cedar forest areas which have not been included in a forest management program. Cedar groves are still not finding a sufficiently wide field of application in the national economy. In conclusion, the speakers proposed the organization of experimental combined (complex) cedar farms /kedropromkhoz - industrial cedar farms for the rational exploitation of cedar trees, and suggested that these farms be equipped with the necessary machinery and equipment. It is also necessary to work out an over-all plan for the restoration of cedar forests in which trees have been cut down or destroyed by fire and forest pests, to increase considerably the volume of forest restoration operations in cedar forests of Siberia and the Far East, and to make sure that these operations are carried out. In addition, the speakers proposed a number of specific measures aimed at the rational exploitation and restoration of cedar groves.

Participants at the conference were briefed by Academician A. S. Yablokov (VASKhNIL) on the problems and methods used for the selection and seed-growing of Siberian cedars in the USSR.

The speaker proposed that the best parent plantations of Siberian cedars (plus plantations) and the best parent trees (plus trees) be selected for seed-breeding purposes and to allow the creation of seed-growing supply centers. In selecting viable and fertile cedar types, the quality of the trunk (stem) and the speed and power of growth should be taken into consideration. The speaker believes that it is indispensable to perform graftings of Siberian cedars in order to achieve a reproduction of the best cedar types (grades) and in order to obtain plant hybrids. The author also considered the principle of organizing seed-growing supply centers in forestry establishments, principally at forestry seed-growing establishments, which should be organized in Siberia.

S. I. Kabalin, director of the Novosibirsk Forestry Administration, described the cedar-forest establishments in Novosibirskaya Oblast and the experience gained during cedar-growing operations, in which the oblast has scored a number of production achievements.

V. A. Dudin, in his report entitled "The Status and the Problems Connected with the Exploitation of Cedar Groves in Tomskaya Oblast," described contemporary methods of exploitation of cedar forests and their restoration. While mentioning the combined (complex) exploitation of a cedar taiga, he proposed a number of practical measures.

Candidate of Biological Sciences T. P. Nekrasova (Biological Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR), in her report entitled "Scientific Basis for the Organization of Cedar Nut Production Farms in Western Siberia," described the status of the nut-growing industry in Tomskaya Oblast, noting at the same time the primitive methods used for the procurement and original processing of cedar cones. The speaker gave figures showing the size of the cedar-cone harvest in comparison to the actual harvest obtained in Tomskaya Oblast over a period of 11 years, and also proposed a scale for cedar-cone harvests; the speaker also showed the possibility of using a morphological method for making forecasts of cone harvests. The problem concerning the necessity of organizing cedar seed-producing farms in each oblast within the near future was also mentioned in this report.

Prof. L. F. Pravdin (Wood and Forestry Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) reported on methods used in studying the fruit-bearing properties of Siberian cedars.

In a report entitled "Conclusions Drawn from a Study of Cedar Pests and Problems Connected with the Struggle Against Such Pests," Candidate of Biological Sciences N. G. Kolomiyets (Biological Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) described pests attacking Siberian and Korean cedars and pointed out those pests which inflict the greatest amount of damage to cedars. It is imperative that these pests be studied first of all. The speaker pointed out that, with presently available pest-control methods, the adoption of effective measures for combating these pests is possible only by a thorough biological knowledge of these pests.

Doctor of Biological Sciences B. P. Kolesnikov and Scientific Associate Ye. P. Smolnogov (Ural Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) reported on certain regularities (rules) governing the age and restorative dynamics of cedar forests located in the Trans-Ural--Ob' River region.

Doctor of Agricultural Sciences K. P. Solov'yev (Far Eastern Scientific Research Institute of Forestry) presented a report describing the condition and methods of exploitation of cedar groves in the Far East.

The problem of the combined (complex) lifetime exploitation of cedars formed the subject of a paper read by Senior Engineer V. P. Znosko (Sibgiprolesprom), in which he described the organization principles of complex cedar farms and their activity during the lifetime exploitation of cedar groves.

Candidate of Chemical Sciences V. A. Pentegova (Chemical-Metallurgical Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) read a paper entitled "Potential Industrial Use of Soft Resin (Oleoresin) Extracted from Siberian Cedars," in which the great value of this resin for the national economy was demonstrated on the basis of tests conducted with soft cedar resin and products obtained during the treatment of the resin.

Aspirant N. A. Luganskiy (Ural Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) reported on variations of Siberian cedars according to their bark in the Central Ural region.

Chief Forester M. G. Petrenko (Tuva Forestry Administration) described the cedar plantations in Tuva, their exploitation and future growth perspectives.

Prof. V. N. Skalon (Buryat Combined Scientific Research Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) read a paper entitled "On Hunting Facilities in Industrial Cedar Establishments," in which he described the history of the development of hunting facilities and criticized the present industrial establishments.

Senior Scientific Associate M. N. Shirskaya (State Reservation "Stolby"), in a paper entitled "Forestry Fundamentals for Planting Siberian Cedars in Wooded Mountain Areas of Siberia," described methods for restoring cedar growth in woods clearings and on wooded slopes. According to the author, the best type of cedar cultivation is the creation of complex cedar plantations mixed with larch and linden trees.

Problems concerned with the agrotechnical cultivation (growing) of Siberian cedars were examined in detail by Candidate of Agricultural Sciences O. P. Olisova.

The reports were followed by a period of lively discussion.

Junior Scientific Associate M. V. Nozdrenko (Biological Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) described diseases affecting Siberian cedars. The latter are subject to fungus and bacterial diseases at different age periods. Fifteen different cedar diseases are known to occur on the territory of Siberia.

G. P. Motovilov (Wood and Forestry Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR) noted that the problem of economics is the main problem which must be considered in connection with cedar forests; the solution of this problem will serve as a basis for the solution of biological problems. Scientific progress can only be achieved with a high practical level of cedar-growing operations.

Forester M. P. Gulyayev (Tomsk Forest Service) reported on his experience in connection with the growth of cedar plantings sown in the fall.

A. F. Loginov (Director of the Kemerovo Forestry Administration) proposed in his address to switch over to the sowing (planting) of cedars in wood-growing areas, but first to find a method for combating pests which destroy cedar nuts. He also mentioned a number of shortcomings in the administrative operation of cedar groves.

Prof. G. G. Samoylovich (Forest Technology Academy) noted that it is necessary to clarify and improve the inventorying and mapping of forests; he also described the most recent cartographic methods used for mapping cedar forests, and the study of cedar groves from a flying aircraft.

A total of 20 people participated in the discussion.

Participants at the conference noted the necessity of carrying out a number of organizational measures which will contribute to the combined (complex) exploitation and reforestation of cedar forests.

The resolution adopted at the conference noted that the cedar forests of Siberia, the Far East, and the Urals are strongly affected by forest pests, forest fires, and unsystematic tree-felling operations which are still in progress, as a result of which has arisen a serious threat of a decreased propagation of cedar trees in Soviet forests and a lower productivity of cedar forests. The resolution suggests that the Tomsk, Altay, Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Khabarovsk and Kazakhstan sovnrakhozes each organize 2-3 experimental complex (combined) cedar establishments (kedropromkhoz) for the rational utilization of cedar trees, and that these establishments be provided with the necessary machinery and mechanisms. In order to preserve cedar groves as unique natural landmarks, the conference believes that it would be desirable to organize a number of reservations in the Kur-Urmi region of Khabarovskiy Kray, an Eastern-Sayan reservation in Irkutskaya Oblast, a Kondo-Sos'vinsk reservation in the north-eastern Pre-Ural region, etc.

The conference expressed the wish that work be continued on increasing the fruit-bearing capacity of cedar trees, on the mechanization and rationalization of the collection and processing of cedar cones, on the promotion of the natural reproduction of cedar trees, on the development of methods for restoring low-value cedar plantations on the sites of former cedar groves in various zones and regions, on agrotechnical methods of cedar-tree cultivation, and on reliable methods for combating harmful insects and rodents in Siberian, Kazakhstan, Far East and Ural forests.

The conference addressed a request to Gosplan RSFSR and to the Main Administration of Forestry and Forest Preservation under the Council of Ministers RSFSR, calling for an examination and approval of the recommendation made by the Biological Institute of the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, concerning a main-purpose felling system of Siberian cedars, and of the recommendation made by the Far Eastern Scientific Research Institute of Forestry, concerning a felling system for Korean cedars.

In conclusion, the conference believes that it is indispensable to create a permanent council, attached to the Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, for coordinating scientific research and recommendations dealing with cedar problems.

Following the conference, a scientific excursion was organized in the Bazoysk cedar groves of Tomskaya Oblast, located 170 km from Novosibirsk. Participants at the conference had an opportunity to become acquainted with the various types of cedar forests in this district, with various types of soil, and also with methods for recording the cedar harvest on the basis of cone tracks.

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