

CEPF Cooperatives' Working Group Work Plan 2008/09

Working Group meeting 2008-12-09



European forestry

- Over 60% of forests owned by families
 - generation bridging management and experience
- 16 million family forest owners
- Small scale forest holdings
 - average size 2-50 ha
- Sustainable forest management
 - Balancing economic, social and ecological requirements
 - Respecting the diversity across Europe
- 60% of the annual increment in European forests is harvested

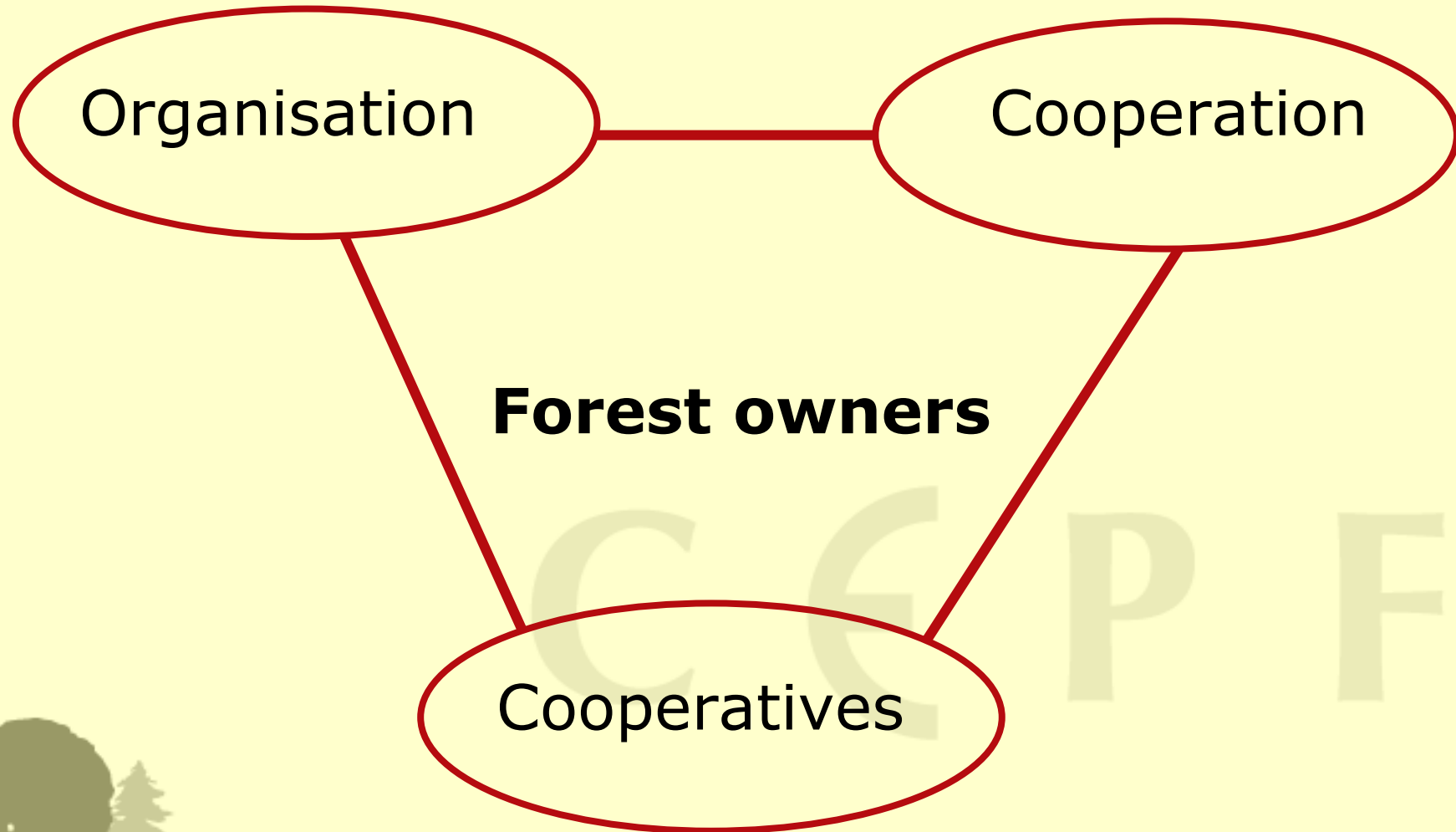


What is the challenge?

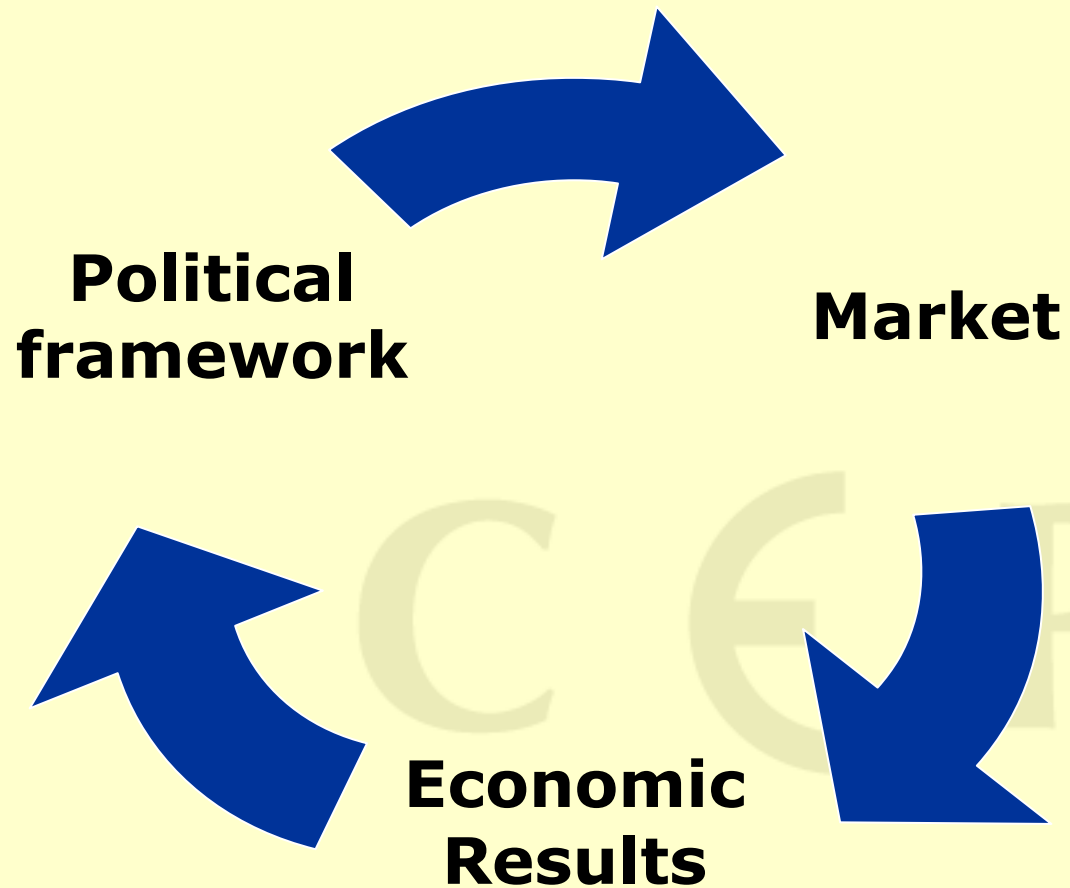
- There is potential in Europe's forests
- Climate change creates a golden opportunity
 - High economic and political focus
- Demand driven from the markets
- Respects the ownership rights
- Mobilisation of forest owners' income
- Forest owners need to be organised

Organisations key to sustainable forest management and economic viability





Mutual benefit



Examples of Forest owners cooperation development

- Local associations more than 100 years
- National federations almost 100
- Nordic cooperation more than 60
- Partly European cooperation more than 40
- EU Cooperation, CEPF, more than 15
- PEFC cooperation, CEPF, almost 10
- Global cooperation, IFFA, more than 5

Political cooperation, few economic examples



Summary of cooperative facts

- Wide variety of organisational structures
- Forest owners – producer organisations
- Typical
 - Economic cooperatives
 - Political associations
 - Strong combined organisations
- Member share from 3 – 40 %
- Market share from 3 – 75 %

“Hard facts” currently from 11 countries



Total numbers

- 4.700 Producer organisations
- 850.000 members – 11%
 - 8 million private forest owners (total 16)
- 23 million hectares – 42%
- 73 million m³ – 22%
- 14% of total EEA wood from forest



Common goals

- Provide advisory service
- Defend the owners' economic interests
- Improve competitiveness
- Economic lobby – national and EU level
- Promote sustainable forest management
- Provide cost effective certification
- Cooperation with industrial partners



Conclusions on cooperatives

- Strong force – contribute to sustainability
- Secure efficient and stable wood supply
 - Also from areas with small forest owners
 - Strengthen competitiveness of industry
- Engage small owners in the supply chain
 - Secure control of property and value creation
- Clear potential for sustainable increase in harvest and long-term productivity
- Need for framework conditions and support for stronger economic cooperation



Family forest owners' and their cooperatives offer

- Sustainable forest management and sustainable raw material supply
- Increased sustainable cutting
- Improved silviculture - increase the annual growth
- Increased afforestation of unused or agricultural land
- Advice and information channel to the individual forest owner
- Co-operation to increase efficiency and profitability



Commitment


- Develop an ambitious action plan
- Improve production and harvest

**Increase European wood supply
20 % from today to 2020**



CEPF cooperate working group

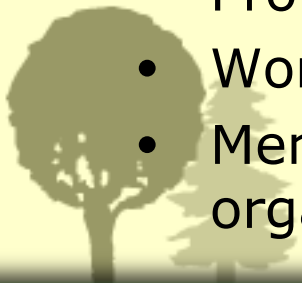
- French initiative in 2004
- Uniting political and economic forces
- Building up network, strengthen practical and economic co-operation, promote formation and development of forest owners' co-operatives
- Promote economic forestry
- Close cooperation with GOPA/COGECA
- Forest owners' cooperatives and forest producers' organisations on national and regional level
 - Members or associate members of CEPF



Obstacle: Gaining information - Explaining “the concept” to all forest owners

Mandate

- Working group within CEPPF
- Strengthen the practical and economic co-operation between forest owners' co-operatives
- Add strength to the political impact of CEPPF
- Act as advisors for CEPPF in economic and cooperative issues
- Assist in the implementation of the EU Forestry Action Plan
- Create a network for exchange of experience between the forest owners' cooperatives in Europe
- Promote formation and development of forest owners' co-operatives
- Promote economic forestry
- Work in close cooperation with GOPA/COGECA
- Members of the working group should be CEPPF members or organisations working in cooperation with CEPPF members



Goal

Mobilise forest owners' income

Strategies

- Gain strength by unifying economic and political forces
- Demonstrate the strength of forest owners' economic cooperation
- Grab the golden opportunity of climate change policy
- Defend our rights to the resources
- Utilise the forest based potential for the benefit of forest owners, forest based industries and the society



Prerequisites and action strategies

- Must contribute to forest owners' income and viable forest economy
- Demand driven from the market
- Respects the ownership rights
- Voluntary cooperation
- Sustainable forest management and sustainable raw material
- Advice and information channel to the individual forest owner
- Co-operation (to increase efficiency and profitability of forestry)



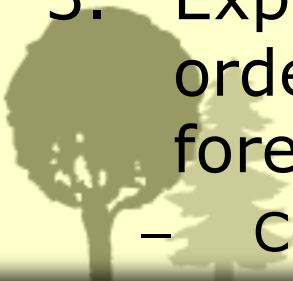
Activity areas

- General support of CEPPF
- Follow up of Cooperatives' action plan and the wood mobilisation plan
- Strengthening the Cooperatives' network and cooperatives visibility



Activities 1

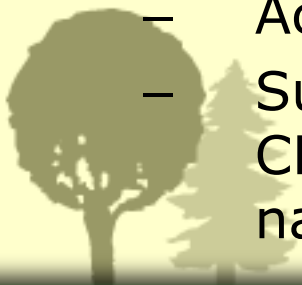
1. Enlarge the overview of forest owners' (forest producers') organisations in Europe, build a CEPF Cooperatives' database and improve network
 - Build on results from Compiègne seminar
2. Finalise the forest owners' wood mobilisation action plan
 - Build on CEPF draft, EU Action plan and Standing Forestry Committee ad hoc working group results
 - Build long term action plan durable in short term recessions
3. Explore options for exchanging information in order to support effective group certification within forest owners' cooperatives
 - Cooperation with PEFC



Activities 2

4. Identify fundable projects (external funding, COM or other sources)
 - Study the importance of organising forest owners in order to achieve sustainable forest management
 - Pilot project in developing forest owners' (producers) cooperatives in Eastern Europe
 - Follow up the Forest Technology platform and the Strategic Research Agenda

5. Support CEPF and the follow up of the EU forestry action plan
 - Actions to be tasked by the CEPF General secretary
 - Support CEPF General secretary in recruiting associate CEPF members among forest owners' cooperatives at national, regional and local level



Time and Budget

- Timetable to be made in the Cooperatives working group after the Board Meeting
- So far no specific budget
 - For the Board and General Secretary to decide

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Short time Focus on activity 2 and 4

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Information and updates

Cooperative sub-site

www.cepf-eu.org

C E P F

