Canada and Iufro

D. R. REDMOND

Canadian Forestry Service
Department of the Environment
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0H3

Forest scientists are frequently concerned to know how to keep current with what is going on around the world in their field of research. Scientific literature does not meet the need adequately. Attending meetings helps, but it is not often that enough of the right people — those really in the forefront of the developing new knowledge — are there. Scientific associations tend to be national or regional or to offer only in a particular field solutions to the scientist's quest for informal exchange of information with widely scattered workers who share his particular interests. What organizations can scientists reach out to or join that will answer their questions, and how does a scientist join them? The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a body capable of meeting these needs of Canadians in forestry research.

What is IUFRO and how is it reached?

IUFRO was founded in 1890 as an international union of experimental stations in Europe. It has re-organized several times and has become world-wide in its membership. It achieved its present form in 1971.

Its aims are:

To facilitate contact and exchanges of ideas between research workers in different countries particularly as regards drawing up of joint research programs and collaboration in carrying them out; to convene periodic meetings combined with study tours; and to work for unification of terminology and standardization of research methods.

IUFRO organizes major international Congresses at intervals of approximately five years. Between Congresses, as many as 30 scientific consultations, symposia, conferences, excursions, workshops, and the like are convened annually by the Divisions, Subject Groups or Working Parties.

Who belongs?

All forest research institutes or organizations in the world, whether established by governments, universities, industries or other agencies, qualify for ordinary membership in IUFRO. The present membership includes 265 such establishments in 74 countries, employing some 9,000 forest scientists. China is the only large country in which there is no member. There are 10 Canadian members, which represent probably 750 scientists, excluding graduate students. These are

Canadian Forestry Service, Department of the Environment

Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Faculty of Forestry, University of New Brunswick
Faculty of Forestry and Geodesy, Laval University
Forest Service, British Columbia Departments of Lands, Forests and Water Resources
Policy Research Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Research Service, Quebec Department of Lands and Forests
Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada

The Statutes provide for honorary, associate and corresponding membership to accommodate individuals in special circumstances. There are four such members in Canada.

How do scientists benefit?

Although IUFRO is a Union of forestry research organizations and not a union of research scientists, it is the scientists of member institutions who benefit most from its activities. The work of the Union is done in Subject and Project Groups or Working Parties. Each employee of a member institute is entitled to the freedom and facilities of the Union which enable him, if he wishes, to correspond with all the scientists in his specialization, or any other, employed by any other member institute. Usually each Group or Working Party leader has a list of scientists who have indicated an interest in the topic covered by his group and will provide their names and addresses on request. The names and addresses of leaders were published in IUFRO News No. 2, October 1972, and revisions have been published in later issues.

Do Canadians participate?

At the XVth Congress, held in Gainesville, Florida, in March 1971, about 640 scientists from 56 countries spent six days discussing in Congress, Subject or Project Group or Working Party sessions, the results of their research and planning activities for their respective groups over the next five years. Fifty-four forest scientists from Canada were there. They presented 35 of the 450 scientific or technical papers discussed during the week. The XVIth IUFRO congress will be held in Oslo, Norway, June 20th to 26th, 1976.

Canadian foresters attend many of the Group, Working Party or joint meetings held, often as Group, Working Party or discussion leaders, chairmen, or rapporteurs. Almost every year an important meeting is held in Canada. For example, a Workshop on "Biomass Studies" was held at the University of British Columbia in August 1973, and a Symposium on "Forest Operations and Techniques" in eastern Canada, September 23rd to October 5th, 1974. In all, some 350 individuals are IUFRO officers or lead Working Parties. Twenty-three of these are Canadians, employed by federal departments, provincial forest services, universities, and private enterprise.

Canadians have contributed in many specific subject areas, most notably forest site and land classification, forest fire, entomology, forest mensuration, wood engineering, wood harvesting and transport, and bibliography.

Is IUFRO a United Nations Organization?

IUFRO is not a member of the U.N. family. It is wholly independent of governments. The governing body is the International Council, composed of one delegate from each country in which there is a member. The International Council meets only during Congresses. It studies and revises the Statutes as required, elects the President (Professor Ivar Samset, Forest Research Institute, N-1432, Ås N-L-H, Norway, is President 1972-1976) and other principal officers who form an Executive Board, defines the structure of the program and approves the time and location of the next Congress.

The Executive Board meets annually to carry on the business of the Union and to implement the program approved by the International Council. It is chaired by the President. Its members are the Vice-President and 17 members, 11 of whom are elected on the basis of geography, and the six elected Coordinators (leaders) of the six Divisions. There is a Permanent Secretariat located at the Forestry Research Institute, Schönbrunn, Vienna,

How is it organized to allow a scientist to find his peers?

IUFRO's program is divided into six Divisions:

- I — Forest Environment and Silviculture;
- II — Forest Plants and Forest Protection;
- III — Forest Operations and Techniques;
- IV — Planning, Economics, Growth and Yield, Management and Policy;
- V — Forest Products; and
- VI — General Subjects.

Each Division comprises a number of Subject Groups or Project Groups, of which there are 58 in all, combined for administration purposes on the basis of similarity of subject matter covered. Most Subject or Project Groups are further subdivided into two or more Working Parties, which are groups of scientists having closely related interests, studying specific topics.

The 58 Subject and Project Groups relate to such topics as silviculture, genetics, harvesting and transport, entomology, wood engineering and recreation. There are approximately 180 Working Parties with such titles as treatment of young stands, procurement of seeds, air pollution, needle diseases, forest roads, work physiology and sociology, estimation of increment, forest taxation, spiral grain, sawmilling, and multilingual terminology.

The activities of each Division are loosely supervised by a Coordinator assisted by one or two Deputy Coordinators. Each of the 58 scientific groups has a leader and one or more deputy leaders, and each of the 180 or so Working Parties is guided by a chairman, assisted usually by one or more co-chairmen, who are distributed geographically to

achieve effective coverage of world-wide conditions and to enhance dissemination of results.

Does IUFRO publish?

Proceedings (which often comprise large numbers of scientific papers) are published of Congresses and the meetings of Subject and Project Groups and Working Parties. In addition, the activities of Working Parties and other groups frequently lead to publications of different types. Some of the more widely known of these are

- Anon. 1966. Accounting Systems for Forestry Enterprises. IUFRO, Munich.
- Anon. 1963. Aerial Photographs in Forest Inventories Applications and Research Studies. Section 25, IUFRO, Munich.
- Anon. 1973. *Fomes annosus*. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on *Fomes Annosus*. Athens, Ga., U.S.A. Sept. 17-22, 1973.
- Anon. 1971. Forest Biomass Studies, XVth IUFRO Congress, Gainesville, Fla., U.S.A. 1971.
- Anon. 1963. Internationally Dangerous Forest Tree Diseases. Section 24, Forest Protection, IUFRO. Misc. Pub. No. 939, U.S.D.A.
- Anon. 1970. Thinning and Mechanization. IUFRO Meeting, Sept., 1969. Civiltryck A B., Stockholm, Sweden.
- Carbonnier, C., et al. 1971. Definition of Forest Land and Methods of Land and Site Classification. Dept. of Forest Yield Research, Royal College of Forestry, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Gregory, G. R., et al. 1967. Forecasting in Forestry and Timber Economy. IUFRO Working Group No. 4, Helsinki, Finland.
- Jeffers, J. N. R. 1960 Experimental Design and Analysis in Forest Research. Almquist & Wiksell, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Speer, Julius, 1972. IUFRO 1892-1972. Forest Research Institute, Ås, Norway.
- Van Soest, J., et al. 1959. The Standardization of Symbols in Forest Mensuration. IUFRO, Vienna, Austria.

"IUFRO News" was initiated in 1972. It appears at intervals of about six months. The Secretariat attempts to distribute it to all the scientists in IUFRO member institutes.

For additional information, readers are invited to write directly to:

Dipl. Ong. Otmar Bein,
IUFRO Secretary,
Forestry Research Institute,
Schönbrunn,
A-1131 Vienna,
Austria.

or to:

Dr. D. R. Redmond,
Vice-President, IUFRO,
Canadian Forestry Service,
Department of the Environment,
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0H3
Canada.