

L.G.K. If there isn't anything fundamentally new it would be better to make maximum use of our own resources. It is not just our clients who are counting money these days, but we ourselves. We have our own laboratory in the Voronezh Timber Industry Institute. Traditionally we paid it from 60,000 to 100,000 roubles annually for conducting research. We have no bones to pick with them. But this year, because of the new system, we have signed contracts with them but for a sum of 30,000 roubles only.

L.P. All the same, what do you mean exactly by "fundamentally new?" Is there any chance that we will be seeing the next generation of forestry equipment in the near future?

L.G.K. I have to admit frankly that I don't envisage this for the near future. At most what we need is a completely new approach to forest technology. We need to use the modular principle; a base tractor module with a single front axle. There will be a set of various machines (a cultivator, a sower, etc.) instead of the second axle. This will be very convenient and profitable for our, frankly speaking, poor forestry enterprises. They could buy one vehicle instead of ten. And our sowers are much cheaper...

L.P. Is this abstract wishful thinking or have you carried out some solid work in this direction?

L.G.K. We have worked out an agreement with the Khar'kov Cross-country Tractor Chassis Plant for joint research in this area. It will give us two modules for experiments and we propose to make approximately thirty variations of vehicles that could operate with the modules. We can't do all this work ourselves - we have to work with the scientific sector and with enterprises from other industries.

everything else is considered, our respected scientific bodies are just continuing the old line.