

Excerpts from Interview with the Minister of Forestry for  
the Belorussian SSR

Beginning in the New Year, forestry in Belorussia is converting to full cost accountability and self-financing. What are the problems confronting the sector? Our correspondent talks with the new Minister of Forestry of the Belorussian Republic, G. Markovskii.

Q. "What are the specifics of the new economic structure insofar as they apply to the activities of enterprises of the Belorussian Ministry of Forestry?"

A. "First and foremost, the fact that our activities under the new system of cost accountability should be viewed in the overall context of the change over to self-financing and self-administration of the entire economy of the Republic. For 65 years, since the mid-twenties, forestry has been part of the budgetary estimates system of financing, which has long been a hindrance to the development of the sector. Its main shortcoming is the absence of a relationship between expenditures and the end result. It is precisely here that the reasons for the indifference of the forestry enterprises to the end results of managerial activity should be sought. I do not need to explain what this has led to. The statute drawn up by the government of the USSR concerning the transition of the sector to full cost accountability is based on the development of money-exchange relationships, which provide for the more efficient use of forest resources and their more extensive regeneration. In particular, payment for finished forestry objects and for goods and services at differentiated prices is being introduced, to take the place of financing individual actions and studies. Self-financing is changing over to a normative basis."