

FORESTRY

Need for All-Round Forest Utilisation Strategy Emphasised

The real resources

Today the efficient exploitation of natural resources is a problem handled by government. At the same time, the most important part of it - forest utilisation - has until now developed haphazardly, or to put it more accurately, extensively. The same can be said of forestry as a whole. This practice has been and continues to be based on the notion that the potentialities of our forests are boundless. It was precisely on this account that back in the thirties, the principle of sustained non-exhaustive forest use was rejected. And the main emphasis began to be placed on lumber camps. The basic resources in fact went to meet the loggers' needs.

Until now, forestry has been financed by the so-called residual principle which, of course, cannot ensure the renewal of forest resources. More and more timber is needed. Lumber camps have spread over vast areas, including the far northern regions with their extreme natural conditions, even though in principle it is possible to obtain the volume of timber the country needs (400-500 million cubic metres) by intensive forestry involving an area of 100-150 million hectares in the western, southern and central regions of the country where the conditions are more favorable.

But this is just one side of the problem. The other side lies in the fact that in most cases, the forest is regarded only as a source from which to obtain timber. However, according to estimates of scientists and specialists, ecological resources have now become preeminent among all types of forest resources. Incidentally, no one in the country is disputing this. But the economic bodies, while acknowledging in principle the