

technological variants at the same time: clear felling on a restricted area of felling site with timber shipped in assortments, and selective felling of uprooted trees.

During the first two years of its existence, the laboratory was occupied with a great deal of experimental research used to draw up temporary instructions for the first variation. The research was also used to develop prototypes which were tested with positive results. I was forced to leave the Caucasian branch of the Institute because of the low morale and severe psychological problems experienced by the workers in the group. All my co-workers, who had worked on the project with me, left as well. The saddest thing of all, however, was the fact that neither the scientific council of the branch nor the Party bureau chose to defend these promising technical and technological developments on the use of helicopters in felling work.

In an attempt to prevent the curtailment of research on this technology, I wrote a letter to the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology in 1984. In response, I received a letter indicating that further work on this technology would be continued in 1985. But 1985, 1986 and 1987 have all gone by without any further work on this technology.

The timber industry desperately needs equipment which would make it possible to harvest the timber without harming the forest environment. Such technical means are possible and they already exist. Unfortunately, however, they exist only on paper. In order to realize this dream we have to begin a wide programme of experimentation which would make it possible to create a new generation of felling equipment based on an entirely new concept.

Lesnaya promyshlennost  
16 January 1988  
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