

L.G.K.: We make the MBT-8 chokerless skidder. It does not have a simple history; at first no-one liked it and we received a great number of justified complaints and returns. We then improved it so that now the workers don't complain and even some send us their compliments and thanks. We are continuing to improve this machine and to make it more universal. Working together with the Karelian Scientific Research Institute of the Timber Industry (KarNNILP) and the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry (TsNIIME), we have developed a branch-delimiting and cross-cutting head for it. Starting next year we will (partially for the time being) complete the machine with this unit. In this way the machine will be able to skid the logs and cut off the branches. We have already started to develop devices for further operations. We are improving our other machines as well.

L.P.: Everything you've said is quite interesting. But these are all just modifications, improvements... Do you have any radically new equipment in the planning stages or in the experimental shops?

L.G.K.: Up to now I've just been telling you about what we have undertaken to do ourselves, in our own design bureaus which, by the way, we have decided to put on an internal profit-and-loss accounting system. Basic research is required for any radically new equipment. This is the task set before the industry's scientific bodies: the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Forestry and Forestry Mechanization, the Central Experimental Design Office for Forestry Equipment, and other institutes. The only new unit is the fire-fighting tractor based on the Czechoslovak LKT model, designed in the Leningrad Scientific Research Institute for Forestry. We have even announced a competition among our plants for the right to manufacture this machine. As far as everything else is concerned, our respected scientific bodies are just continuing the old line.