

What needs to be discussed today is not simply the quantitative regeneration of forest resources. Any forest worker, and indeed, others too, will speak regretfully about the groves of shipbuilding timber, the oaks, and the majestic spruce forests along river banks which have disappeared during the past decade. Success in reforestation depends directly on problems of seed production. We have worked for the concentration of seed nurseries and their enlargement. Formerly, there were nurseries in just about every forest district and operations there were conducted by what were truly grandfather's methods. Today this work is centered right at the forestry farms and is under the control of qualified engineers. In the new nurseries many processes are mechanized, and both domestically produced and imported equipment has been purchased. However, you don't solve the problem of obtaining sufficient amounts of high-quality seeding and planting material solely by saturating an enterprise with machinery. This is why in a number of places we have embarked on the establishment of breeding centres and hothouse-nursery complexes. Within 10 to 15 years forest genetics centres such as these will yield at least half of the total amount of planting material.

In the best forest districts a wealth of experience has been gained in transferring plantings to forested areas. The survival rate of forest plantings has reached 95 percent and more in the Gantsevichi, Vileisk and Stolbtsy forestry farms. When plantings are in progress emphasis is placed on the growing of such productive species as pine, the proportion of which amounts to more than two-thirds of the total area, and also spruce.

Reforestation is inextricably linked with the calibre of forest conservation and protection. The sector is sustaining substantial losses on account of virtually uncontrolled, high-volume drainage and road construction activities. It is painful to see large forests strewn with felling debris, quarries situated within the forests and ruined young stands. The miniscule fines bring no tangible result. We must put some teeth into the Law.