

the forest products derived from indiscriminate fellings.

Although the need to convert to ecologically harmless logging has long been apparent, there is currently no evidence of a change for the better. Nor does the prediction in the draft regarding the development of logging machinery and technology prior to the year 2005 inspire one with the hope of revolutionary change, for it lacks the necessary ecological orientation.

At TsNIIME (Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry) the idea is firmly rooted that advantages are to be gained from studying the experience of countries that have extensive forests from which a great deal of timber is extracted. On the other hand, in Western European countries such as West Germany, where logging is done on a small scale, valuable experience has been accumulated in the area of non-exhaustive, productive exploitation of the forests. In my view, our sector is in need of immediate aid and an expertly devised protection programme.

Any primary conversion and extraction operations are both ecological and economic in character. The only variable is whether the effect will be favorable or adverse. It can confidently be stated that under conditions characterized by favourable ecological and economic effects the average per hectare pick-up of wood from the felling areas can be as much as 5 to 7 cubic metres across the country. The assortment method of logging is the most productive. It makes it easier for machinery and technology to be adapted to the needs of ecology, makes for a judicious combination of tree felling and