

A data bank is also being planned for use in evaluating and predicting the ecological situation. We shall go out to the international forest resource ecology center and thereby access the global forest ecology information system.

Q. "Aleksandr Sergeevich, last year the draft of a statute on forest leasing in the USSR was submitted for public discussion. Our readers are interested in what has happened to this draft."

A. "Back in September, the draft underwent further polishing after taking into account various comments and proposals and was then submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers. I consider that the lease is the cornerstone of modern forest utilization but it is running into resistance, especially from the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. Why? Apparently because in leasing, it will be necessary to conclude an agreement for receipt of the forest land and to pay for the utilization of the forest. The main reason why we have a shortage of forest products is because the forest is being exploited virtually free. Hence the squandering. Every third log is lost either at the coupe or en route or in processing. Leasing will put an end to this poor management. It is directed not at the obtaining of profits, as some believe or give the appearance of believing, but at the maximal utilization of forest resources, at competent, scientifically based forest management. The genuine manager has nothing to fear from the lease, since it is the lessee who must bear the cost of various kinds of underproduction. If you have overfelled the allowable cut you will have to pay five times over. If you don't harvest the fruits, mushrooms and berries according to the average norms, then you pay. And some do not like