

status of a main type of exploitation, and thus granted the requisite material and technical supplies and organizational help. It would make a great deal of sense to organize specialized harvesting and processing cooperatives and to lease the pine plantations out to them. I believe that this is one of the most important economic and organizational functions that the agencies of the RSFSR Agroindustrial complex, the USSR State Committee for Forestry and the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry, should undertake.

I would also like to alert our experts to the question of developing industrial nut-producing plantations and stands applying genetic selection methods. What would this involve?

First of all it would mean stopping the felling of highly-productive Siberian nut pine stands in the logging regions where there is a real danger of the disappearance of this valuable genetic source of the Siberian nut pine and the Korean pine. These regions include the Gorno-Altay region, the Krasnoyarsk, Khabarovsk and Primorskiy Krays, and the Tyumen' and Tomsk Oblasts. This would result in an expansion of the industrial nut-production zones. There is also an urgent need to form genetic reserves.

Genetic selection - this is the only way in which the industry could be set on a new footing with a more sophisticated management structure that would answer to all the needs noted above. It suffices to say that the seed yield of grafted 10-year old Siberian nut pine plantations, developed using selected genetic material, already comes close to matching the average yields of mature taiga pine forests made up of trees aged 160-200 years, and amounts to 120 to 180 kilogrammes per hectare.