

7.2. Plantations

In 1961, Pinus caribaea var. hondurensis was introduced in the State of Monagas (Venezuela), through an agreement between the Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables of the Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría (MAC) and the Forest Service of the Island of Trinidad. A small number of trees were brought and planted near Maturin (Monagas). Later, in 1965, the MAC established an experimental lot of 0.5 ha. in Cachipo (Monagas), approximately 40 kilometers northeast of Maturin. Once the first positive results were obtained, the MAC began (1966) a Plantation Program with an initial planting of 15 ha. The Program continued up to 1971 with 895 ha. planted.

In 1966 the Corporación Venezolana de Guayana (CVG) located experimental lots of P.caribaea near Uracoa (Anzoategui); and, in 1969, began in Uverito (Anzoategui) a large scale plantation program of the same species. Uverito today has more than 134,000 ha. planted and the total Plantation Program of CVG comprises more than 422,000 ha.

The majority of the plantations are state-owned and have been cultivated through:

- a) An improved process of selecting and obtaining the appropriate seeds and establishing modern nurseries.