

A crucial element in the reorganization of reforestation is bound to be forest seed production based on genetic breeding principles. Only the initial steps have been taken in this direction. Breeding centres and heated nursery complexes must be established in order to supply the forestry enterprises with high quality planting material.

A second component in the improvement of reforestation is of necessity achieving a dramatic rise in the quality of the planting material. Every year, between 5.5 and 6 billion seedlings and saplings are grown in this country, a figure which is sufficient for the establishing of forest plantations. At the same time, the industry frequently experiences a shortage of planting material and is often unable to meet the requirements of sub-contractors. Material for planting out should be raised in forest nurseries in which integrated mechanisation ensures the use of seeds from forest seed orchards and seed stands, with only elite sources used in the long term. Mechanised production lines for containerised tree seedlings are to be introduced and by 2005 the output of these will have reached a level of 8 to 9 million seedlings.

At the consumer bases of pulp-and-paper mills, the raising of forests in plantations is to be expanded.

In all, 315 million hectares of the country's agricultural lands are in need of forest shelter. The existing protective stands constitute only a quarter of the quantity needed. Few complete systems have been established. By the year 2005 a total of 3.9 million hectares of protective stands must be planted. This figure includes 660 thousand hectares of field shelter belts. They must be planned in the form of a State order, since prompt sequestering of lands for the implementation of this work is essential.

Reforestation must be linked with forest dewatering and reclamation if the productivity of the forests is to be raised. Here, the problem of repair and restoration of the existing drainage system will be