



On behalf of SIMWOOD SME partners
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Simwood SME Conclusions

Simwood Final Conference
12 - 13 October 2017

Which are the SMEs involved

• BTG	Biomass Technology Group	Netherlands
• AGRESTA	Agresta S. Coop.	Spain
• ECM	ECM Ingenieria Ambiental	Spain
• FBE	Cooperative Forêts & Bois de l'Est	France
• IWP	Irish Wood Producers	Ireland
• FEL	Forest Enterprises Limited (now VEON)	Ireland
• ARBOREA	ARBOREA	Portugal
• ForestFin	Florestas e Afins	Portugal
• ESS	Energikontor Sydost AB	Sweden
• RDI	Rural Development Initiatives	UK
• SWA	Small Woods Association	UK

There is a wide range of SMEs involved with the Forestry sector

- Private sector forestry businesses involved in:
 - Forest planning, management, planting and harvesting
 - Heat and energy markets
 - Wood product value adding
 - Research and development agencies
 - Forest nurseries
 - Non-Timber Forest Products, e.g., Mycological resources
- Not for profit enterprises
 - Social, environmental and/or economic motivation
- Other important Forest SME sectors not directly involved in SIMWOOD
 - Social forestry, e.g., Forest Schools
 - Tourism and recreation

Why SMEs get involved with research

- Knowledge
- Ideas
- Networking
- Desire for grounded research that can be practically implemented
- The ability to make contacts as a business without an direct economic imperative
- Product development and business growth



SMEs & Researchers share a practical interest in mobilisation



SME conclusions

SIMWOOD participation gave confidence that:

- Unutilised increment/product exists in all areas studied
- The nature of that product and the answer to its mobilisation varies from one area to another
- Economically viable mobilisation of larger amounts of “available product” is possible
- Researchers were interested in similar problem to SMEs
- New knowledge gained both at the technical level, as well as new approaches with forest owners

Tangible outcomes

- **RDI** have a tangible and indeed valuable result from the project in the form of our Grown in Britain marketing group which we hope to be self sustaining post project.
- **SWA** are developing small woodland mobilisation projects in England and Scotland (2 projects covering 8 areas); also working with Wales
- **IWP** were able to use SIMWOOD as a catalyst for amalgamation of small discussion groups and information shared by partners provided examples to expedite commercial activity.
- **FBE** have used data and results from the field trials, informing logging operations, as 30% are on sensitive soils
- **ESS** found the introduction of research stakeholders into the regional energy sphere influenced the composition of relevant partnerships and has provided a source of new partners for the university for future collaboration

Irish Wood Producers SIMWOOD site visit



Tangible outcomes 2

AGRESTA has experienced

- Improvement of competitiveness through dev of new products, services & advances in R&D
- Improvement of networks through participation with SIMWOOD and locally
- Improvement of image, through better brand positioning.

Forestfin/ISA were able to introduce new management models in the region, involving circular economy towards a better profitability from forest sector

ECM has developed their understanding and expertise in the connection between thinning and production of important edible mushrooms for the rural economy

BTG was able to develop and implement projects to increase wood mobilisation through the setting-up of collectives in the Netherlands. RTD partners provided valuable support, especially regarding the structured evaluation of pilot projects.

Non-Timber Forest Product



Experience of participation

- A valuable experience being involved in such a large project that involved both policy development and research
- Valuable to be involved in (& learn from) discussions about mobilisation over such a wide range of regions, to help understand the range of mobilisation approaches exist and what might be feasible
- Useful input and support from the project management team in developing our pilot project and focus study
- Collective working, with an active stakeholder dialogue throughout the process is a good method for running local multi-actor project
- The structure of the Regional Learning Labs encouraged collaboration and led to further opportunities for knowledge and information exchange
- Has enabled participation of SMEs in scientific research & production of papers

A community of interest is emerging



With a willingness to learn from one another

Research is better when SMEs are involved

- Research outputs are more likely to be useable and to be used
- & SMEs are better as a result of their involvement in research

- Research (& researchers) are grounded in “real world” problems
- & SMEs have access to potential problem solvers

- Better solutions emerge
- & their results are more likely to be measurable



Looking forward

- Can now use the links established across Europe between organisations with similar interests,
- Can now use the links established between SME and research communities
- Learning about projects , e.g., the importance of evaluation
- Establishing links between scientific and practical knowledge towards sustainable solutions to the forest sector



Thank you for your attention!



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 613762.