

basis. Middle Districts FF had a field day covering Cypresses, and in particular suitable sites and out turn (what the sawmiller needs and can achieve). There is a general feeling that the small grower of the special purpose species has been abandoned.

#### **Wellington (Kevin Jamieson)**

One meeting so far this year with Professor Bruenig (Oxford) on sustainable forestry issues. Two or three further meetings to be held in 2000.

#### **Nelson (Peter Wilks)**

AGM, combined with a presentation from Dr Chris Goulding on Advances in Forest Inventory, on March 14. Discussions are occurring with local industry groups about the formation of a local "Forest Industries Group" made up of representatives from the various organisations such as NZIF, FIEA, Farm Forestry Association and the larger forest owners.

#### **Westland (Mike Orchard)**

Very successful meeting (50 people) in January, with Professor Bruenig speaking on Economic and Ecological Risk Management in practicing Near-Natural Forestry. AGM of Combined Tree Growers Association (NZIF, FFA, Tree Crops) held this month. Field Day on March 25, visiting a number of 1993 plantings (radiata, eucalypts, blackwoods, cypress) to assess the benefits of land cultivation (v-blade, ripping, excavator) on various soil types when establishing a forest or woodlot.

#### **Canterbury (Hugh Stevenson)**

Recent evening seminar with Edwin Jensen and Rick Tau of Nga Tahu Holdings Corp. to discuss the recent purchase by Nga Tahu of Crown Forest License lands on the South Island. The AGM was held in conjunction with the meeting.

#### **Otago-Southland (John Edmonds)**

The plans are to replicate in Southland, last year's hosting of the public in a forest just out of Dunedin. The day included buses to bring people to the forest, and displays and demonstrations on fire protection, tree measurement, planting and sawmilling. AGM coming up in May.

## World Forestry Certification Model Closer

A global framework for mutual recognition of environmental certification of forest practices came a step closer at a major meeting of international private sector paper and wood products interests in Rotorua.

The International Forum of Forest and Paper Associations (IFFPA) and the FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products have endorsed efforts by an international industry working group, led by New Zealand, to develop a framework for credible sustainable forest management standards and certification systems.

The IFFPA collectively represents 90 per cent of the world's commercial forestry and wood processing interests and 55 participants from 27 countries have met in Rotorua in early May.

"It's the biggest meeting of global private sector forestry and wood processing interests ever held in New Zealand," said IFFPA chairman, James Griffiths. "And to reach consensus on such an important subject as certification for sustainable forest management is of enormous potential significance."

The major US and European industrial users of wood fibre and retailers of wood products have given the industry until the end of next year to come up a cost-effective and credible solution to the proliferation of certification schemes.

"At the moment there are at least 40 certification products of varying type and credibility available around the world," says Griffiths, "and that represents potential chaos."

"However, the FAO committee and the IFFPA have today supported the working group's efforts to develop an over-arching framework which will identify credible standards and deliver sustainably sourced forest products to the marketplace."

The New Zealand-led working group will now develop the 'tools' for bilateral and regional recognition of the certification framework and test it with international customers before a potential launch early next year.

Mr Griffiths, who was appointed vice-chairman of the FAO Advisory Committee, will represent Southern Hemisphere plantation forestry interests through to 2003.

"Having these two prestigious groups meet here is part of our strategy to promote the New Zealand plantation industry and our concepts of sustainable forest management," said Griffiths who is also chief executive of the NZ Forest Industries Council.

"We have been telling delegates, including representatives of major international agencies such as the World Bank, the UN Environmental Programme, the International Tropical Timber Organisation and the European Community to watch out, the New Zealanders are coming."



Delegates from around the world in session at the Rotorua conference