

REFORM - Regional Workshop

Kalsnava, latvia

April 4-5, 2018

Magnus Löff, SLU

The first regional workshop within the ERA-Net Sumforest Project REFORM was held April 4-5, 2018 approximately two hours' drive from Riga in MLS Kalsnava, Latvia. The workshop was organized by the Aris Jansons at SILAVA (Latvian State Forest Research Institute). Most of the steering committee members were present (Miren del Río as well as the work package leaders Hervé Jactel, Hans Pretzsch and Magnus Löff). Anna Barbati and Felipe Bravo could not attend. Edmund Linde (LVM), Gisela Björse (Sveaskog), Erik Sollander (Skogsstyrelsen), Iveta Desaine (Skogssällskapet) from forest practice and state forest Agencies participated. In addition, Ahto Kangur (Estonia), Gediminas Brazaitis (Lithuania), Sverre Holm (Glommen Skog, Norway), Skars Krisans (Latvia), Endijs Baders (Latvia) and some students were also participating.

The workshop started with a joint dinner and a steering committee meeting in the evening of the 4th of April.

In the second conference day, April 5, presentations were held by members of the project team as well as by invited partners from forest practice and Agencies. Miren del Río started with an introductory talk on the organizational structure and described the main goals of the REFORM project. Edmund Linde from the Latvian State Forests talked about the forests in Latvia and the silvicultural challenges including challenges with mixed species forests. He emphasized that monocultures can occur stand-wise, but be mixed at the landscape-level. Many stands are established as mixtures or can be created in the young stages, but there is a lack of guidelines in the older stages of mixed stands. Also browsing from wild ungulates was mentioned as a big problem for the establishment of mixed-species stands. Gisela Björse from the Swedish state forest company talked about their properties, challenges and how they work with mixed species forests. She emphasized that they want (also from FSC reasons) to have more mixtures for risk-reduction, but lack management plans. In their green management plans they use target classifications, but these does not include management guidelines over time for mixtures. Hervé Jactel focused on how mixed forests can reduce damage and risks. After a lunch break, Erik Sollander (Swedish Forest Agency) presented their view on the challenges with mixed forests and how they work to implement forests policies. One of their goals for Swedish forests was to increase variation through e.g. continues cover forestry and mixed forests. They try to push forest owners in this direction by addressing other ecosystem services than wood and by open a forest experimental portal where alternative management regimes can be presented. He emphasized that the forest industry decides the management regimes to a large extent and that leads to monocultures. More knowledge is needed concerning damages, increment and resistance in mixtures versus monocultures to be able to convince people to change. Hans Pretzsch gave a presentation with focus on growth

and yield in mixtures versus monocultures and about some challenges for developing practical management guidelines for mixed forests. Iveta Desaine from Skogssällskapet (a Swedish management company present in Latvia) talked about the silvicultural challenges of mixed forests from their perspective. Also Ahto Kangur and Gediminas Brazaitis gave presentations about mixed forests in Estonia and Lithuania, respectively.

It was concluded that more long-term experiments with mixtures are needed to be able to develop management guidelines (especially for the later stand stages). In addition, there is a lack of yield tables / models for mixed-species stands, and summaries of cost and benefits (the whole picture). Finally, participants wondered about advantages and disadvantages with tree-wise mixtures in comparison with stand-wise mixtures (that are more easily managed).

In the afternoon, workshop participants participated in a small field excursion where Norway spruce-birch mixtures were shown and discussed with focus on stand development and wind stability. Some participants had to cancel this part of the workshop to be able to arrive in time to the airport in Riga.