

# Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group NEWSLETTER

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**First Edition**

**January, 1996**

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## **WELCOME!**

This is the first ever newsletter for the SRWC Operations Working Group. Hopefully, it will be published annually and improved significantly over time. The newsletter is for those who have an interest in the operational aspects of establishing, growing, and utilizing woody crops under intensive management for either fiber, biomass fuel, or both products.

The newsletter is now just an information source concerning activities of the Working Group. In the future, hopefully it will be a venue for the sharing of technical and scientific information and a resource for managers, researchers, and manufacturers involved with short rotation woody crops.

## **BACKGROUND**

An international conference, Mechanization in Short Rotation, Intensive Culture Forestry, was held in Mobile Alabama in March, 1994. The conference was unique in that it brought together from around the globe those interested in a special aspect of short rotation forestry. The meeting provided an arena to exchange scientific and technical information, to learn the current status of such activities, to identify additional resources and collaborators, and to stimulate a growing interest in the problems and opportunities associated with mechanization in short rotation forestry. A total of 69 persons attended, representing seven countries. A proceedings was published that included 18 papers.

At the conclusion of the conference, it was obvious that interest in the subject was widespread and that several issues remained unresolved. There was discussion on continuing the exchange of information and improving collaboration in short rotation mechanization. It was resolved to begin the process of establishing an informal working group to sponsor additional conferences and provide for increased technical exchange and collaborative research.

In a mutually beneficial and collaborative effort, the USDA Forest Service-Southern Research Station and DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) agreed to help organize and sponsor a Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group. The Working Group will be administered by ORNL.

A steering committee was selected by the organizers to develop a charter, propose structure and functions, and plan a conference. A draft charter is enclosed for your review. It will be discussed and adopted at the first organizational meeting. Presently, the intent is to have an informal structure without having a formalized set of by-laws. Hopefully the Working Group can be administered by the sponsors and led by a steering committee until the interest and participation is sufficient to formalize the organization.

## **WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

The Steering Committee recommends that membership is open to anyone with an interest in short rotation woody crops operations. There are no dues associated with being a member. Administrative costs are now being borne by the sponsors. A person can become a member by either sending in name and address information, or by attending a sponsored conference.

Currently, this newsletter is being mailed to a large audience. To reduce mailing costs, only those people who specifically request to will remain on the mailing list and be a member of the Working Group. Please complete and return the following information before July 31. If you are registering for the September 1996 Conference, you do not need to complete the form.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The initial Steering Committee was organized to represent many sectors and interests. The role of the Steering Committee is to provide leadership in organizing a Working Group, develop mechanisms to conduct activities, to organize Working Group confessions, and to initiate a clearinghouse for information.

An organizing meeting of the Steering Committee was held in September, 1995. A proposal charter was developed and a conference was planned. Several items of business will be handled at the first organizational meeting of the Working Group in September, 1996. One item is finalizing the Steering Committee structure and roles. Please come prepared to discuss these issues. The current Steering Committee recommends that additional members be considered: producer/harvesters, agricultural equipment manufacturers, and university researchers. Regional representation may be needed as well.

## SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

The First Conference of the Short-Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group will be September 23-25, 1996 at Paducah, Kentucky. There will be an organizational meeting of the SRWC Operations Working Group. The conference includes a general session with keynote speakers who will present different perspectives of SRWC and discuss future issues. There will also be three technical sessions in which speakers will review current operations and discuss state-of-the-art production systems, New research results and technological advances will be presented.

An all-day field trip is planned to visit a cottonwood nursery, an agroforestry/waterfowl management program, cottonwood and sycamore plantations with several activities being demonstrated, and a state-of-the-art plantation with drip irrigation. The tour is being hosted by Westvaxo.

For registration information, please contact the Biofuels Feedstock Development Program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory at: (423) 576-5132

The Short-Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group is currently being administered by the Biofuels Feedstock Development Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Please send comments and suggestions for the newsletter to:

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## Short-Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group Membership Information

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