

„Without regeneration – no forests”

Policy brief for the SNS-EFINORD Network: “Nordic Network of Forest Regeneration”

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Over hundred researchers from around the world gathered to discuss the recent advances in forest regeneration and restoration research. The activity promoted exchange of information and ideas between researchers in different countries.



Forests provide humans different kinds of goods, benefits and services, and the wellbeing of most people is directly or indirectly dependent of forests. Regeneration of forests means establishment of new forests, for example through planting after clear-cutting or natural disturbances, and it is a crucial step in forestry, influencing strongly what kind of forests will be around in the future. Successful forest regeneration is today more important than ever because of the urgent need of productive forests that can bind the excess atmospheric carbon dioxide and provide renewable raw material for different purposes, replacing the plastics and other fossil-based materials. International research collaboration and information sharing is helping the society to find cost-efficient and sustainable solutions to regeneration problems.

Forest regeneration is particularly important in many Nordic and Baltic countries, where forests have important economic functions as a source of timber and fuel, and where they are also actively used for recreation and for picking of berries and mushrooms. These countries also share similar challenges, infrastructures and natural conditions for forestry, which underlines the added value of close collaboration amongst the countries.

Forest regeneration is a key for successful and adaptive forestry in future climate because of the urgent need of productive and vital forests that can bind the excess atmospheric carbon dioxide and contribute to increase in biomass production for the replacement of fossil and other nonrenewable natural resources. In order to provide forest biomass, wood products and ecosystem services for the present and future societies it is of utmost importance that careful attention is paid to this crucial step in forestry, namely forest regeneration.

The goal of the SNS Forest regeneration network is to maintain and develop the Nordic-Baltic research collaboration in forest regeneration. The network especially aims to promote participation of young researchers and gender equality in forest research. Broad participation of researchers is crucial for the renewal and future development of the research field.

In practical forestry, forest regeneration goals are often not met due to current forest regeneration criteria and knowledge gaps. The diversified use of forests in future bioeconomy, together with changing land-use patterns and climate change related challenges call for re-examination of forest regeneration regimes. SNS forest regeneration network provides policy-relevant knowledge by re-evaluating the scientific basis for current forest regeneration goals, by detailing and future-proofing the country-specific needs for new regeneration regulations and guidelines, and by describing ways to bridge the policy-practice gaps in forest regeneration activities across the region. Importantly, the network supports competence-development of future researcher generations with specific knowledge about forest regeneration.