Gender balance
in the Nordic forest sector

PHOTO: PÅR FORNLING
Jag tror att skogsbruks framtida yrkes-utövare kommer att karaktäriseras av hög social kompetens och kommunikativa egenskaper. En person som bemöter alla i branschen med respekt och kan svara upp mot olika skogsägares behov oavsett kön, bakgrund och yrkesroll inom industrin.

Gun Lidestav (ATL 2012)
Gender equality in the Nordic forest sector

Forestry is still regarded as a male-dominated sector. To test this belief, we examined the representation of women at different levels within the key parts of the forest sector. In addition to fresh data on gender distributions, we have searched for trends to see if there has been an increase in the share of female representation within the Nordic forest sector.

It is important to increase equal status and equal opportunities for women and men in the forest sector, for the sake of gender equality itself but also to address the shortage of staff in the sector. Active involvement in different actions is one way to go. Removing hinders that keep women on the outside is another direction. Both of them needs policy incentives to be realized.

Which is the status of gender balance in different areas of forestry?

Legislation
All Nordic countries have acts that focus on equality and anti-discrimination. However, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland have statutes that force public administration to have 40% female representation.

Research
The Nordic countries except Iceland and Norway have about 30% of female researchers, an unevenness that we see in both public and private research organisations. Iceland stands out with the share at 50%, while in Norway it is 25%.

Education
Norway and Sweden have 30-40% share of female Master students. We also see a positive trend in these two countries, and a slightly negative or no trend in Denmark and Finland. In Denmark and Iceland we see about 30% of female students.

Public administration
It is not easy to compare public administration among the Nordic countries. The highest share female representation (60%) is seen in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In our study, the Nordic countries the share of women lies between 30 to 40%.

Interest groups
In Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland there are special female interest organisations. In Norway, the share of female forest owners is 41%, in Sweden 39%, in Denmark 14%.

Forest owners
The ownership structure differs between the Nordic countries. We have focused on small scale forestry; with this, we mean family owned forests. In Finland the share of female forest owners is 41%, in Sweden 39%, in Norway 25% and in Denmark 14%.

Nordic women organisations in forestry
Sweden: Spillkråkan
Skogskvinnorna i Värmland
Norway: Kvinner i skogbruket
Iceland: Skógarkonur
Nordic region: Nordiske skogskvinner

Sweden is the only Nordic country lacking legislation about gender balanced public administration.

The share of female students is substantially lower than the share of female employees in Nordic universities.

Top of the class – Finland

Jag värms på djupet av de många människor som har förstått innebörden av #slutavverkat och #metoo handlar om: att vända ägarskapet. Från att hålla tyst, skratta med och lämna situationen till att säga ifrån, markera gränser och stå kvar.

Elin Olofsson, startade #slutavverkat på Instagram (SCA nyheter)

0% in the Nordic countries, the share of female drivers of logging machines is close to 0% of the total number. Despite the lack of drivers of forest machines, only half of the population is considered for these jobs.

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The facts in this brochure emanates from our report Gender balance in the Nordic forest sector. Download the full report on our website - for free!

nordicforestresearch.org

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