
BOOK REVIEW

Tropical Forestry: Third World Versus Western Concerns. Proceedings of the 1990 International Student Forestry Symposium University of Wales, Bangor: 3-5 January, 1990 (Edited by Nick Pyatt and Jereony Willians) 1990-113 pp.

There is considerable concern in western countries about conservation of tropical forests in Asia, Africa and Latin America for environmental and climatic stability and for preservation of biological diversity. As a result, western countries would like to restrict commercial exploitation of these forests and would allow only their scientific and sustained utilization. The developing countries are however, of the view that the restrictions being imposed by the developed countries are unjustified. They need to exploit their tropical forest resources for developmental purpose as well as for paying back their debt to industrialised countries. This has created a heated controversy as to who is responsible for destruction of tropical forests: developed countries who indulge in excessive and wasteful use of tropical timber products or developing countries supporting their increasing populations with shifting cultivation at the cost of their natural forest resources.

The book under review contains proceedings of the international students forestry symposium, initiated and organised by Forestry and Wood Science Society of the University of Wales, Bangor, England, in order to discuss above issues. There are 11 papers in this publication which deal with topics of status of tropical forests, their causes of deforestation, problems and prospects of financial investment, international development

assistance, development of efficient forest estates, building bridges between the public, pressure groups, and professional foresters, etc. There is considerable emphasis on extending the forests beyond the forest boundary in two papers. Similarly, two papers deal with changing forestry education needs in the 1990s. These constitute useful readings for students of tropical forestry and fill information gap on the subject matter to a certain extent.

Presently, there is proliferation of writings on tropical forestry, mostly coming in the newsletters. However, most of them are based on assumption of personal nature which are being turned into personal convictions with little room for rational arguments. There are very few serious studies of problems of tropical forestry. It is hoped that such studies would be published soon for the benefit of people and tropical forests of Asia, African and Latin America.