

COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN HIGHER FORESTRY EDUCATION AS A KEY TO PERFECT A FOREST ENGINEERS IN THE CURRICULA



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Abstract

In a globalized world, including communication, forestry education and training form an essential pillar for achieving a **SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM)**. Since both social demand on forests and pressure on forest resources are continuously increasing, forestry education should always be up to the task in order to meet the request in a sustainable pattern.

The question is obvious: is current forestry education designed to the new social and economic requirements, that is, to people globalization?

There are too many doubts about this, in several international forestry forums a growing concern has been expressed as to whether the current approach to forestry education is adequate. It has even been noted it is out of date and get worse in some higher education centres.



Keywords: GLOBALIZATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, LOGICAL EDUCATION, FORESTRY TRAINING



Foto 1. Viaje de prácticas al Pirineo Aragonés de los alumnos de 5º curso de Silvopascicultura durante la primavera de 1969. En primer término y de izquierda a derecha: María Jesús de Miguel, Mariano Correas, Berta Domínguez y Aniceto Benito. Al fondo a la derecha Teresa Villarino



Conclusions

- 1) Knowing the current situation of forest education and training, we should ask ourselves: what are real options to improve current state?
- 2) On the one hand, without the support a whole of well-trained forest managers and policy makers, it will be impossible to maximize the contribution of forests to sustainable development.
- 3) On the other hand, the future of our forests depends on attracting outstanding and vocational students to the Higher Forestry Education, providing them with the essential knowledge and skills.
- 4) For that, the communication and information abilities on forestry education is critical. As well, complementary efforts to raise the profile of forestry engineers in the curricula and in the community are very important to increase awareness and understanding about the forests and forest-related professions.
- 5) Developing continuing education and training opportunities for forest professionals, members of forest communities, private forest owners and the private and public sector is also significantly important.