Non-industrial Private Forest Owners’ Willingness to Supply Forest-based Energy Wood in the South Savo region in Finland

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The consumption of energy wood in Finland has increased dramatically since the early 2000s, and the region of South Savo is a bellwether for its usage across the country. This increase is partly due to the national policy of sustainable energy, region’s wealth of forests but is also dependent on non-industrial private forest owners (NIPF) deciding to sell energy wood. This presentation is based on a survey with a structured questionnaire conducted among the NIPFs in the region of South Savo in 2009-2010. The purpose of the survey was to enlarge the understanding of the NIPFs’ perceptions of and orientation towards energy wood use starting from the actual energy wood production of NIPFs with different background. Based on the survey results the presentation addresses also the willingness of NIPFs to sell different types of energy wood on various prices in the future. Moreover, the readiness of forest owners to adopt new approaches to forestry that involves energy wood thinning as well as factors influencing their motivations relating to energy wood thinning are covered. The information needs of NIPFs with different background will show which specific target group(s) to focus on when promoting energy wood sales among NIPFs and which aspects of energy wood harvesting and sales to promote. Finally, the results of the survey are reflected against the actual use of different types of energy wood during 2010-2014 in the South Savo region and the changes in the operational environment of energy wood sales since 2010. Some guidelines are also given to promote the supply of energy wood among NIPFs.

Keywords: Energy wood; Non-industrial private forest owner; Energy wood sales, Energy wood thinning