

**Global Forest Plantations Assessment:
Contributions to Sustainable Wood Supply and Resource Conservation**

J.P. Siry¹, and Frederick W. Cabbage²

¹Assistant Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA; ²Professor, Department of Forestry, N.C. State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

Forest decline in many of the world's regions has focused more attention on intensive plantation management as a means of achieving sustainable wood supply and environmental objectives. Using recent data, we assess the area of intensively managed plantations, their growth rates, and contributions they make to global wood supply and trade by country. We analyze major trends in plantation development and changes they bring, including a shift away from traditional forest regions, closely followed by wood processing industries. Our findings indicate that forest decision-makers have the means to achieve sustainable wood supply based largely on plantations. If this potential is realized, increased productivity in managed forests will lessen wood harvesting pressures and enhance the protection of natural forests. The actual degree to which already developed intensive management biological tools are used will be determined by tradeoffs between forest management intensity and economics, associated environmental effects, and public acceptance. We developed answers based on the analysis of investment returns, land-use policies, and forest certification in key plantation regions.