



Promotion of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)

Side event at the 22nd COFO, 2014
Wed, 25th June, 8.30 – 10.30 hrs,
FAO-HQ, Mexico Room

Introduction. The International Poplar Commission (IPC) is a traditional statutory body within FAO. It was founded in 1947 in the aftermath of WWII destructions, when poplar and willow culture was considered a priority to supporting reconstruction of rural and industrial economies. Today, IPC comprises 37 member countries including developing and developed countries. Aiming to promote the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows, the IPC has demonstrated the importance of integrating forestry and agriculture and has played important roles in the development of national forestry sectors, mostly through the transfer of knowledge on poplar and willow cultivation and the exchange of technologies and breeding material.

Reform of the IPC. Since its last session in India 2012, IPC is in the process of conducting a significant reform process to expand its thematic scope to include other genera and species with similar attributes, to restructure its working parties to cover environmental and development issues, to strengthen its links with sustainable livelihoods and land-use, and eventually to increase its attractiveness to international programs and donors.

Objective of the side event. The side-event is expected to strengthen and promote the IPC reform process with member countries and interested parties. It will provide a good opportunity to give high visibility to the accomplishments of IPC and its members some of which will present joint activities and projects that have been developed and coordinated with support of the Commission. The side event will also serve to officially launch the new publication "Poplars and Willows – Trees for Society and the Environment", a major reference work of more than 600 pages on poplars and willows.

The tentative program of the event is shown on the next page



Do not miss the launch of the new book: Poplars and Willows, Trees for Society and the Environment!

Tentative Program

moderated by Mr. Walter Kollert, IPC-Secretary

Time	Item	Name
8:30 -8:35	Welcome remarks and introduction to the program	Douglas McGuire, Leader Forest Resources Management Team
8:35-8:50	The IPC and its reform process	Walter Kollert, IPC-Secretary
8:50-9:10	The significance of poplars and willows for rural livelihoods and sustainable development	Jim Carle, New Zealand, IPC Executive Committee member
9:10-9:30	The role of the IPC in the Chinese-Italian cooperation on poplar cultivation	Stefano Bisoffi, Italy, IPC Executive Committee member
9:30-9:50	The role of the IPC for the cultivation of poplars and willows in Argentina	Esteban Borodowski, Argentina, IPC Executive Committee member
9:50-10.10	Discussion	Moderated by Walter Kollert
10.10-10.30	Launch of the new book: Poplars and willows - trees for society and the environment	Jim Richardson Canada/ Jud Isebrands U.S.A., book editors, IPC Executive Committee members
10.30	Refreshments	