



Society of Irish Foresters 1942-2022

National Forestry Conference, 11 October 2022
Non-Wood Forestry: Who benefits? Who pays?
Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co. Meath

The 2022 national forestry conference, organised by the Society of Irish Foresters, addresses non-wood aspects of forestry including carbon sequestration, recreation, biodiversity and water management. Most of these issues have featured in Irish forestry planning for decades, but the main objective of State and private forestry up to the end of the last century was to maximise timber yield and income as well as achieving wood security.

This approach has created a resource worth €2.3 billion annually along with an estimated 12,000 jobs mainly in rural Ireland while 23,400 forest owners – mainly farmers – receive an income from forestry. However, forest policy in Ireland has been broadened to include multipurpose forestry objectives. The Society of Irish Foresters has been an advocate of multifunctional forestry since it was founded in 1942, which is reflected in our publications and events including, policy position papers, scientific journals, field days, public lectures, conferences and international study tours. This year's conference – "Non-Wood Forestry: Who benefits? Who pays?" – explores the benefits and costs of non-wood forestry. It debates the social, environmental and economic implications and challenges in achieving a balanced sustainable forest management programme.

Session 1. 09.15 – 12.45

Chair: Marina Conway, CEO Western Forestry Co-operative.

- **08.30 – 09.15.** Registration, tea/coffee.
- **09.15 – 09.20.** Conference introduction by Donal Magner, Forestry Editor, *Irish Farmers Journal*.
- **09.20 – 09.50.** Balancing the multipurpose benefits of forestry – Colm Hayes, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **09.50 – 10.20.** Health and wellbeing – access, open forest policy – Eamonn Kenny, Director of Forest Operations, Coillte.
- **10.20 – 11.00.** *Tea/coffee*
- **11.00 – 11.30.** The role of forest owners in delivering non-wood benefits – Olive Leavy, Secretary, Irish Forest Owners.
- **11.30 – 12.00.** Ecosystem services: balancing benefits with payments and the role of certification – Donal Whelan, Technical Director, Irish Timber Growers Association.
- **12.00 – 12.30.** Realising the value of forestry through natural capital accounting – Professor Jane Stout, Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin.
- 12.30 – 12.45.** Q&A

Lunch 12.45 – 13.45

Session 2. 14.00 – 15.45

Chair: Matt Dempsey, Chairperson, Irish Agricultural Trust, *Irish Farmers Journal*.

- **14.00 – 14.30.** Keynote address: The role of non-wood forestry in the new Forestry Programme for Ireland – Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **14.30 – 15.00.** Water services – protecting water quality, shade provision and flood regulation – Dr. Tom Nisbet, Head Physical Environment Research Group, Forestry Commission.
- **15.00 – 15.30.** Carbon based forestry: acknowledging forest owners for their contribution to net zero – Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue, Established Chair of Social and Public Policy, University College Galway.
- 15.25 – 15.45.** Q&A featuring all conference speakers

This conference is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

This event qualifies is worth **30 CPD points** to those registered on the CPD Programme