

SOME KEY FACTS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION CONTRACT

In the period 1996-9, the *Rural Development Forestry Network (RDFN)* published:
47 original articles;
in 3 languages (English, French, Spanish);
by 79 authors.

The RDFN has an enrolment of 2,500 active members, and upwards of 25 new members are joining the Network every month. Geographical distribution of Network Members is: 28% of members in Africa, 26% in Asia, 16% in Latin America and 30% in the north. An average of two requests for information about tropical forestry are received per day.

Two-thirds of *RDFN* members copy and distribute papers to others – fellow researchers, government officials, farmers and students.

RDFN Members report that they have, on their own initiative, translated *Network* papers into (several?) numerous additional languages, including:

Amharic;
Bahasa Indonesia;
Hindi and other Indian languages;
Kiswahili;
Mandarin Chinese;
Nepali.

As of December 1999, the *TROPICS* website was visited, on average, once every two minutes, day and night.

The hard copy edition of the *EU Tropical Forestry Sourcebook* has been distributed across the world in both English and French language editions (respectively, 3000 and 1000 copies). As of December 1999, the Website edition of the *Sourcebook* was visited, on average, 10 times a day.

With the support of the Commission, an important new series of publications, the *EU Tropical Forestry Papers*, has been launched. By the end of the contract, five papers have been published, in up to three languages each (two/three languages in each case, from English, French, Portuguese and Spanish). The total number of copies being distributed in all languages is over 10,000.

During the period of the contract, the Forest Policy and Environment Group at ODI organised, or gave professional and administrative support to the Commission in organising 5 international meetings and workshops (on themes such as forestry management in the Congo Basin and in the Guiana Shield region, and aid delivery in the tropical forest sector), bringing together forestry professionals from across the globe.