Nordic Trends in Forest Inventory, Management Planning and Modelling

Proceedings of SNS Meeting in Solvalla, Finland
April 17—19, 2001

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This proceedings includes papers and abstracts presented in the 2001 meeting of “Nordiska Samarbetsgrenen för Skogsinventeringsfrågor” (Nordic work group of forest inventory specialists), sponsored by SNS (SamNordisk Skogforskning – Nordic Co-operative Research Group on Forest Inventory Questions). Recent achievements of the research teams represented in the meeting are reported in team and country reports. These reports include lists of recent publications (up to April 2001 at least) produced by the teams. The other four parts of the proceedings contain both original research reports and more general presentations of, e.g., modelling and planning systems organised according to the main themes of the meeting: multisource inventory, other inventory topics, forest management planning and forest modelling.

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Preface

The origin of the Nordic Co-operative Research Group on Forest Inventory Questions dates back to the beginning of 1970's when the first attempt was made to get funding for a common research project focusing on forest inventory questions. The first fund was granted, however, not until the end of 1970's. The first meeting ('Nordiskt Inventerarmöte') was held in August 27–30, 1979 in Torpshammar, near Sundsvall, Sweden. The inventory situations in different countries and activities of the responsible institutes and universities were the topics of the meeting, as well as demonstration of practical inventory work. The meetings were biennial until 1991. The tenth meeting was in held in Solvalla, Espoo, Finland in April 17–19, 2001.

A tight co-operation in forest inventories has even longer traditions than the Co-operative Research Group in Nordic countries. The first national forest inventories were developed simultaneously with a constructive interaction more than 80 years ago. Same co-operation was prevailing in the earlier county level and municipality level inventories preceding the national inventories.

The aim of the Nordic Inventory co-operation and meetings have been to bring together persons and groups working in practical forest inventories and in forest inventory research for changing ideas and to discuss ongoing and future research and to create atmosphere for future co-operation.

Most of the presentations given in the Solvalla meeting are collected to this volume. English language has been selected in order that the articles could reach the audience outside the Nordic region. The content of the volume has been organised into topical chapters: country and team report, remote sensing aided multi-source inventory methods, special inventory topics focusing in different sampling and estimation questions, forest management planning, as well as modelling of volume, growth and natural losses. These topics have been the traditional subjects of the forest inventory meetings. However, the method development in inventory has greatly affected the presentations and the contents of the papers.

The type of the presentations ranged from case studies to wide reviews, some specifically prepared for the meeting, others intended for publication in peer-revived journals. As a result, the articles in this collection are quite heterogeneous in length and style, and attempts to harmonise them were considered impossible and unnecessary. However, this collection undoubtedly serves as a largely comprehensive documentation of the state-of-art in Nordic forest inventories and management planning, with at least references to practically all relevant recent activities of the participating research groups.

This inventory meeting, tenth in its series, serves the overall goal to strengthen and harmonise the Nordic forest inventories and forest inventory research and maintain the high level standard of Nordic inventories. These are again topical issues when discussing how the European level and global level forest resource information should be collected for different types of decision making. The success of the meeting was a result of many individual persons, not least the participants of the meeting. On the behalf of the local organisers, I have the pleasure to thank all the persons and groups contributing to the meeting, as well as the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS) and the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for financial and institutional support.

Helsinki December 18, 2002

Erkki Tomppo