Challenge for the forest sector:

demand for a broader range of goods and services

Challenges for forest research

- demand for a broader scope of research
- more holistic and synthesis research
- more interdisciplinary research
- more collaboration, networking, division of labor
- better interface between research and policy
State of forest economics research

- Forest research strong in biophysical sciences
- Today’s problems in the forest sector originate mainly from socio-economic and policy issues
- Globally, resources allocated to forest economics and policy research are almost insignificant

State of forest economics research

- Varies greatly between countries
- Quality has been improving in leading countries
- Not very well integrated with other forest research (lack of interdisciplinarity)
Challenges for forest economics research

- how to increase quantity
  - problem: research managers represent mainly biophysical sciences
  - influence policy makers who understand the importance of socio-economics and policy-related research
  - increase the number of forest economists

- how to improve quality
  - increase the number of forest economists
  - attract general economists to join
  - increase international collaboration and networking (benchmarking)
  - avoid having too much result orientation and short-term thinking
Challenges for forest economics research

- how to improve relevance
  - more collaboration with clients / stake holders / policy makers
  - take into account all stake holders of the forest sector
  - more attention to dissemination tools
  - more future orientation

- other challenges
  - more holistic approach, get rid of suboptimization
  - more attention to sustainability issues
  - more attention to non-market values, also to cultural, ethical and even spiritual aspects & traditional forest-related knowledge
  - collaborate more with other disciplines
How does forest economic research differ from other economic research?

Thank you for your attention!