

Current Improvement of Non-Wood Forest Resource Inventory and Assessment Procedures

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Forest resource rational utilization is unfeasible without inventory and unbiased assessment of all forest values including non-wood resources regarded as valuable components of sustainable forest management both at national and international levels.

The paper highlights key results of various non-wood forest resource inventory and assessment procedure development and improvement. Scientific and practical values of these studies is noted.

As stressed systematic studies of non-wood vegetative forest resources at VNIILM commenced in mid-60-s of the XX century since establishment of the indirect forest utilization in 1969. Regional forest experiment stations (FES) – Kostromskaya, North Caucasus, Bashkirskaya and Tumenskaya contributed to the Institute studies. Outstanding that as other sectoral institutes joined the studies VNIILM became a coordinating center and the leading institute in this research area. It is noted that although most intensive and large-scale studies were in 80-s and early 90-s of the last century it is still ongoing now.

Key guidelines and practical recommendations reflecting research findings are presented.

An opportunity to define non-wood forest resource stocks based on state forest inventory materials is presented. SFI indicators applicable in assessment of such resource various types are numbered. Some algorithms of such calculations are presented.

A number of proposals to specify and extend the information gained in permanent sample plots during SFI needed to define various non-wood forest resource type stocks.

It is stressed that SFI material applications to assess non-wood forest resource various type stocks enable correct information and its assessment at federal and regional levels.