A graduate-course on Concepts and Tools for Managing Sustainable Forest Production will be given in Concepcion, Chile, November, 2013. The course is organised by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), with support from Future Forests and the research school Trees and Crops for the Future in collaboration with the University of Concepcion (UDEC), Chile, and North Carolina State University (NCSU), USA.

Background

Considerable advances are being made in our understanding of the ecophysiological processes affecting forest productivity and how these processes are influenced by genetics, resource availability (light, water, and nutrients), and their interactions. With appropriate silvicultural treatments including manipulations of both the plant and the soil, we can dramatically increase productivity, production efficiency, and provide the basis for sustainable forest management into the 21st century.

The course will focus on conifer and eucalypt plantations in cold temperate, temperate, and tropical regions because these are the species and regions where intensive plantation silviculture is most commonly practiced. The concepts presented will, however, be applicable to any forest ecosystem where site resources and plant material are actively managed.

Objectives

To train the students in the use of a number of modern techniques to analyse and predict changes in pools and fluxes of carbon, nutrients, and water in forest ecosystems, based on measurements, from above and below of canopy structure and function. The consequences of environmental impacts of altered management systems in forestry and climate change will also be illustrated and discussed.

Preliminary programme

The course will consist of lectures, field measurements and demonstrations, modelling exercises, excursions, discussions, and student presentations. Relevant reading material, which the students are expected to read before arrival, will be sent in advance. The course will give 8 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) or 3 US Credits.

Click for a detailed preliminary programme

Applications

The course is restricted to a maximum of 30 students. Applications should be sent to Prof. em. Sune Linder (sune.linder@slu.se) with cc. to Prof. Rafael Rubilar (rafaelrubilar@udec.cl) no later than 15th of September, 2013. With the application a short CV, copy of certificate of enrolment, and a support letter from the main supervisor should be provided. The main criteria for selection will be how relevant the course is judged to be within the student’s PhD-project. All applicants will receive a formal response on their application before the end of September.

Prof. em. Sune Linder
Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre
P.O. Box 49, SE-230 53 Alnarp, Sweden
e-mail: sune.linder@slu.se

Prof. Rafael Rubilar
University of Concepcion
Faculty of Forest Sciences
Concepcion, Chile
e-mail: rafaelrubilar@udec.cl