



Providing an Independent Platform for Open Communication and Partnership

Balancing the demand for forest products and the responsibility for forest protection will be increasingly difficult over the next fifty years. The challenge is gaining more wood more efficiently on less land with less environmental intrusion.

Biotechnology offers a strategy for addressing this challenge. Research reveals practical possibilities, such as providing trees with new growth characteristics, altered processing capabilities, resistance to external threats, and economically valuable product traits. However, given the power of biotechnology, a balance of societal, ecological and economic benefits must be ensured.

Trees are of prime importance to humans, to our culture and to the environment. The use of biotechnology in forestry will inevitably have a profound impact on all of these areas, and that impact must be carefully shaped. The significant issues that will be created must be credibly and thoughtfully addressed to ensure appropriate application and benefit.

Forest biotechnology must be evaluated both for safety and appropriateness. Science and research, industry and commercialization, issues and policy, ecology and environment: all must be merged and addressed. The diverse parties involved must be brought together into a cohesive framework; thoughtful, innovative partnerships will be required.

To ensure funding and supportive policy development, to meet industry and societal needs and to accurately assess risk — all of these require a strong, central voice and guiding entity.

Accordingly, the Institute of Forest Biotechnology has been established. Not a site for research, the Institute addresses issues, stimulates understanding, and convenes diverse parties attentive to forest biotechnology.

The Four Cornerstones of the Institute are:

- *The Heritage Trees®*
- *Ecological Ramifications*
- *Societal Issues*
- *Outreach*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute works for societal, ecological and economic benefits from appropriate uses of biotechnology in forestry worldwide.



THE APPROACH

ADDRESSING THE TOTAL FOREST BIOTECHNOLOGY ENDEAVOR

The challenges facing forest biotechnology will fully match the technology's potential importance to our lives and futures. To meet these challenges, imagination, nonstandard problem-solving, and innovative partnerships are required. The Institute is a catalyzing and guiding entity that credibly and comprehensively addresses the development, and issues of forest biotechnology. The core philosophical premise of the Institute is to assist and respond to *all* parties involved with or attentive to forest biotechnology.

The Institute seeks new strategies for interaction, partnership, and resolution. It works for practical activities, long-term planning, and engagement with a wide range of parties. It works for decision-making that is informed and balanced by diverse voices.

The Institute is international in scope and participation. Forest biotechnology is shaped and applied worldwide and it must be considered in its widest possible economic, cultural and environmental context.

ACTIVITIES AND EMPHASES

The Institute directs its attention, funding, and activities to three main areas: *Science and Research*, *Policy*, and *Societal Imperatives*.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

- Identify key areas of societal, ecological, and genetic research necessary for appropriate development and use of biotechnology in forestry worldwide.
- Develop partnerships or strategies to implement key research.
- Stimulate and generate research funding.
- Articulate the need for sustained science funding and appropriate policy.

POLICY

- Identify and explore areas in which forestry, regulatory, technology or other public policy is required for appropriate development and use of forest biotechnology.
- Coalesce partnerships and projects to assist policy makers at the state, national, and international levels.

SOCIETAL IMPERATIVES

- Anticipate key areas in which forest biotechnology will involve societal issues: environmental, ethical, public response, educational and policy.
- Develop programs and activities, internal and external, to address these issues.
- Develop educational materials and programs that credibly convey the benefits, applications, issues and risks of forest biotechnology.

PREMISES

The key premises that will guide the Institute in its endeavors are:

- Do a few activities well.
- Work for both practical, immediate needs and thoughtful long-term vision.
- Catalyze partnerships, synthesize results and disseminate information.
- Ensure careful integration of information from other organizations assisting the forest biotechnology endeavor.



CORNERSTONES

The four pillars on which the Institute is built:

- *Heritage Trees®*
Development and facilitation of public-private-nongovernmental partnerships to regain or preserve species such as American chestnut, elms, dogwoods, Fraser fir, and the oaks that are threatened by ‘sudden-death’ syndrome.
- *Ecological Ramifications*
Determine the ecological risk associated with successful incorporation of biotechnology in forestry. Representatives from diverse groups will be engaged to identify and address areas of concern. The science generated from these efforts will provide a strategic tool to define a regulatory policy framework.
- *Societal Issues*
Identify the social, cultural and ethical issues at stake in the application of biotechnology to trees and forests. The work will outline the issues and provide guidance to public debate and future policy decisions.
- *Outreach*
Communicate the science fundamentals of forest biotechnology, its benefits to society, the environment and the economy as well as any attendant risks. This information must be integrated, synthesized and disseminated to broad audiences. This will be done through information booklets and web based media.

OUTCOMES

- *Specific and targeted.*
Responsive to particular needs and issues, through task forces, commissions, reports, white papers, and presentations.
- *Ongoing and Programmatic.*
Disseminated through publications, report series, an annual meeting directed to a significant topic, symposia, and educational materials.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Institute is constituted as a 501-C-3 private nonprofit corporation with a 19-member Board of Directors.

Eighteen of the board members will be drawn equally from three broad constituencies:

- *Public Interest and Non-governmental.*
Public interest groups, environmental groups, policy research groups and institutions directed to religion, ethics, or the humanities.
- *Academic and Governmental.*
- *Industry.*
The forestry, forestry-related, biotechnology, other related industry, non-industrial private forest and energy sectors.

The other member will be the President of the Institute of Forest Biotechnology.

The Institute board members are included in this document.

WORKING COMMITTEES

Standing and issue related committees will serve project needs and allow board members to interact with persons from throughout the forest biotechnology endeavor.

FUNDING

SUSTAINED FUNDING

Ongoing monies to support an Institute with a small staff and commensurate facilities will result from a variety of sources, in a shifting balance: foundations, industry and federal government.

Specific projects and activities will be appropriately funded and sponsored by various profit and non-profit groups.

SUSTAINING ENDOWMENT

An endowment will be sought. Sources will likely include: general and industry foundations, individuals, and perhaps a small percentage of annual operating funds in early years.

Endowment donations will be judged a responsible gesture on the part of an organization interested in both economic and societal gain from forest biotechnology.

PROJECT PARTNERS & SPONSORS

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