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Brazil: A Country Profile of the Forests and Forest Industries

Laura E. Cottle, Gerard F. Schreuder and Antonio A.A. de Barros. 1990

Introduction

Brazil has one of the larger natural forest areas of the world yet, historically, the level of development of the forest industry has been relatively low. More recently, however, there has been significant growth in the pulp and paper sector. This has been largely as a result of the government's positive support and emphasis on the development of this industry. Fiscal incentives have encouraged the establishment of large areas of plantation strategically located near industrial centers. Such programs have enabled Brazil, formerly a large importer of pulp and paper, to become close to self-sufficient in these products and moreover a major world exporter of pulp. Brazil is certainly in an interesting and increasingly significant position *vis-à-vis* the global forest industry situation.

The objective of the present paper is to provide an in-depth review of the literature and data pertaining to the forest resource and forest industry of Brazil. The first chapter gives a general orientation to the country, then follows a detailed description of the forest resource and the three important sectors of the forest industry: the solid wood sector, the pulp and paper sector, and the energy wood sector.

The numerous sources of both literature and data examined included: international symposia, current periodicals, trade journals, newspapers featuring business and economics, Brazilian papers and government documents, and United Nations' publications. Wherever possible, Brazilian sources were used to report the various statistics for production and trade of forest products.

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