

Foreword

In the Netherlands, the field of agricultural science does not only cover the themes of crop and animal production with their related aspects of land and water management and rural sociology and economy, but also the themes of forestry, nature conservation and environmental sciences. Even if forests cover less than 10 % of the Dutch land area, this does not mean that forestry is the Cinderella in Dutch agricultural science. Rather, the intensive use made of the Dutch landscape forces the development of innovative management systems, which optimize the multiple functions of forests for society and which integrate tree plantations within the rural landscape. Research for the development of such systems takes place at several institutes. It is directed not only at the Netherlands' situation, but also towards tropical countries. In this issue of the Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science a selection is given of the various forestry topics which are currently being studied in the Netherlands. The selection is based on the papers contributed to the 9th World Forestry Congress, held at Mexico City in July 1985.

We would like to express our gratitude to the editorial board of this journal for the opportunity to publish these papers in a form which enables a wider readership to note these developments in a particular field of agricultural science in the Netherlands.

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