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Forest Tree Breeding in an Ecologically Oriented
Forest Management System

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zusammengestellt von
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PREFACE

During the previous decades the majority of silvicultural concepts have been modified towards close-to-nature concepts, at least in Europe. Natural regeneration and biological self-acting have become more and more important aspects. The reasons therefore can be seen in an increasing consciousness for ecological concerns in general as well as in economical constraints favouring low-input systems.

Forest tree breeding and ecologically oriented forest management systems are often considered as a contradiction. That this has not to be the case has been shown during the meeting in Escherode. The proceedings presented in the present volume clearly underline the importance of managing genetic resources in order to ensure the sustainability of forest systems and to realize their production capacity.

The meeting also gave the opportunity to say good-bye to a main representative of forest tree breeding: Jochen Kleinschmit. He had initiated this meeting shortly before his retirement end of June 2001. Jochen Kleinschmit was active in forest tree breeding for about 35 years. He was head of the Department of Forest Genetic Resources (formerly Forest Tree Breeding) at the Lower Saxony Forest Research Institute and developed this department to an internationally respected institution. He significantly influenced forest tree breeding activities even far beyond Germany and his merits will remain unforgettable. We hope that Jochen Kleinschmit will continue to give us advice as a forester, scientist, and friend. The proceedings presented here are dedicated to Jochen Kleinschmit.

Wilfried Steiner