

Call for abstracts NOW OPEN for a Technical Session on Silviculture of *Castanea* for the XXVI IUFRO World Congress

What: A Technical Session, ‘Silviculture for the Bioeconomy and Ecosystem Services in *Castanea* Forests’ (Session T2.26) will be held at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress. To submit your oral or poster abstract, please visit <https://iufro2024.com/call-for-congress-abstracts/>

When: Abstracts must be submitted by 2 June 2023. Authors will be informed of their abstract acceptance by 30 October 2023. The IUFRO World Congress will be held 23-29 June 2024 (<https://iufro2024.com/>).

Where: Stockholm, Sweden

More information on the Technical Session:

Chestnut (*Castanea*) is a widely distributed genus within the Fagaceae family with thirteen species distributed throughout Europe, Asia, and North America and has been naturalized in South America and Australia to benefit local rural economies. The versatility and utilization of chestnut is significant for timber and non-timber goods and ecological services such as: edible nuts, mast for wildlife and game species, fuelwood, sawtimber, soil stabilization, wildfire risk reduction, and rot-resistant wood products. Emerging markets include biocompounds, bioenergy, and carbon credits. The bioeconomy is an economic model that is being promoted to address climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty alleviation. Although conceived to improve the efficient use of wood to reduce fossilfuel use, a progressive bioeconomy includes all forest products, including edible nuts. To realize this, silvicultural treatments are needed that encourage production of non-timber forest products. Goals and objectives of silvicultural prescription must explicitly integrate forest products other than just wood; achieving this will require new and innovative approaches to forest management. There are complex challenges to sustain and restore chestnut forests due to the historical management regimes related to cultivation-abandonment and disease and pest pressures. Knowledge gaps exist in understanding sustainable and practical silvicultural methods to manage chestnut forests using natural regeneration or planting improved sources in novel forest conditions. Challenges from global climate change, changes in disturbance regimes, fluctuations in economic markets, and threats from non-native pests and pathogens affect all chestnut species to varying degrees. The incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge into management systems has been largely absent and would benefit underserved communities while increasing cultural benefits to all of society. The goal of this technical session is to facilitate knowledge exchange and promote synergy on the ecology and silviculture of *Castanea* within a bioeconomy framework. The session will facilitate a better understanding of strategies needed to improve performance and success of restoring or sustaining chestnut forests in pure stands, as a component to enrich mixed stands, or as agroforestry systems while being mindful of cultural and economic ramifications. This session takes a progressive approach to compile and improve upon existing knowledge on the silviculture, management, and ecology of chestnut by focusing on multi-species across multi-continental scales. We will provide multiple platforms for participation including oral presentations, posters, flash talks, and an audience question period for all presenters.