

20 February 2023

IUFRO Working party, 2.09.02

Attention: Dr. Jean-Francois Trontin and Dr. Paloma Moncalean

Dear Jean Francois and Paloma

Re: SCION IUFRO

Kia ora and welcome.

Scion is honoured to invite you to Rotorua, New Zealand in March 2024 for the IUFRO 2.09.02 working party Somatic embryogenesis and other vegetative propagation technologies (Group 2. Physiology and genetics) conference. Scion is a Crown Research Institute that specialises in research, science and technology development for forestry, wood product, wood-derived materials, and other biomaterial sectors.

Scion is a large government research organisation with 350 staff, including 200 scientists. Based in Rotorua on New Zealand's north island, we have the resources, experience, and connections to successfully support this conference.

The Scion head office is only a 5-minute drive from the conference venue and Rotorua city centre. It also sits on Te Papa Tipu Innovation Park which is home to over 20 forestry companies.

A conference tour will be organised with the involvement of industry partners and show the most advanced practices in New Zealand's nurseries and clonal forestry.

Rotorua has a lot to offer, and it is a world-renowned tourist destination. Rotorua is known globally for its geothermal activity, Māori culture, lakes, and forests. Rotorua is at the centre of forestry in New Zealand and the region showcases many unique aspects of New Zealand's fast-growing planted forests as well as indigenous forests. Rotorua is very close to the largest production forest in New Zealand (180,000 ha) and continuous management improvements over the last century have made this one of the most productive temperate forests in the world, wood from this plantation is processed through an advanced sawmill.

The forests surrounding Rotorua (within a five-minute drive from the venue) also serve to demonstrate the potential of mixed-use forestry in New Zealand as they provide major sources of recreation and tourism including one of the best mountain biking parks in the world as well as walking tree top tours and more.

We look forward to welcoming you to Rotorua.

Regards



.....
Dr. Henri Bailleres
General Manager IA2 Forests to Timber Products



.....
Dr. Jana Krajnakova
Senior scientist, Project leader