



Background

- Research and Development on Eucalyptus in Portugal has already a long tradition.
- Great advances were made in fields such as genetics, nutrition (soils and physiology) and biometry, being the knowledge on *E. globulus* one of the best worldwide.
- However, R&D in other fields such as social, forest operations, and planning is still missing.

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Contributions of R&D

1. Social

- More than 70% of the area of the Portuguese Eucalyptus Forest is owned by small private farmers.
- There is still a low level of knowledge of the motivations and factors considered by farmers in their forest management decisions (e.g. why they plant, when they cut, etc).
- The strategic development of the sector will be strongly supported by such knowledge.

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Contributions of R&D

2. Forest operations and equipments

- Every year about 6 million cubic meters of eucalyptus timber are logged and transported. Logging and transport costs account to 50% of the wood cost and to important environmental impact.
- Development of more efficient equipment and better adapted to our conditions, will contribute to increasing wood competitiveness.
- Except for Celbi, there is hardly any recent work done in this area in Portugal.

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Contributions of R&D

2. Forest operations and equipments (cont)

- Economical and environmental constraints are regulating the establishment of new plantations. Most of the equipment and operations currently used do not comply with these limitations.
- Development of new equipment and techniques will allow not only complying with such constraints but also to a better utilization of other developments already achieved (e.g genetically improved material)

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Contributions of R&D

3. Planning

- Today's forester has to deal with a growing amount of information.
- Economical, environment and social factors have to be accounted in all levels of planning.
- Decision support systems will be the most important tool for the forest manager and thus development of powerful and "easy to use" tools is strongly needed.

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Conclusions



- Portugal needs to increase its competitiveness in terms of eucalyptus wood.
- Research and Development has an important role ensuring new developments in different fields.
- In order to capture all gains, R&D has to be followed by efficient technology transfer to day-to-day operations.