



# Irish Timber Growers Association

5<sup>th</sup> December 2012

## State investment in private forestry set to pay dividends

Output and harvest of wood from our private forests is forecast to treble over the next 8 years which is expected to stimulate employment in the forestry and timber sectors. The State's investment in supports for private forestry over the past 3 decades is set to pay dividends in the rural economy according to the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA). In addition to this economic boost, these same forests are saving the government money by reducing our national requirement to purchase carbon credits. 'By locking up carbon as they grow these woodlands are combating climate change and reducing the national exchequer requirement to purchase carbon credits on international markets'. It is estimated that this will save the government €220 million over the next five years.

Speaking at the launch of the *2012 Forestry and Timber Yearbook*, Donal Whelan, Technical Director of ITGA, said that private forests are coming of age just as demand for wood in Ireland is beginning to outstrip supply and by 2020 demand is forecast to exceed supply by 1.3 million cubic metres per annum. To reflect the growing importance of the forestry and timber sectors, the Irish Timber Growers Association has increased the size and content of the 2012 Yearbook and has also decided to make the Yearbook available in bookshops throughout Ireland. The 2012 Yearbook was part funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013

The *2012 Forestry and Timber Yearbook* was launched today by Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Welcoming the publication, Minister of State McEntee commented that the ITGA Yearbook remains one of the most important sources of information and reference for those working in the forestry sector and added "*The 'Forestry & Timber Yearbook 2012' is not only focussed on those working in the forestry sector but includes a range of useful statistics and articles of general interest and serves to increase people's awareness of the extent of the forest sector, its outputs and issues.*"

Some years ago, the yearbook directory was made available on the internet and it now appears on three websites [www.itga.ie](http://www.itga.ie) , [www.forestry.ie](http://www.forestry.ie) and [www.forestryyearbook.ie](http://www.forestryyearbook.ie) . This move has proven hugely successful with the websites registering a combined total of well in excess of one million hits over the past year. The directory has undoubtedly been the main driver behind this success as it has expanded well beyond the confines of the forestry and timber industry to include all aspects of the renewable energy sector, mapping services, research, education, etc.

The Yearbook is part sponsored by Coillte. Yearbooks are available in bookshops nationwide and can also be ordered online (price €12.50 plus postage) or by contacting ITGA at 17 Castle street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, telephone 01 2350520; email [itga@eircom.net](mailto:itga@eircom.net).

For additional information contact Donal Whelan, Technical Director of the Irish Timber Growers Association Tel: 01 2350520 Mobile: 087 2209422



*Pictured at today's launch of the 2012 Forestry & Timber Yearbook were (from l to r) Donal Magner, Editor Forestry & Timber Yearbook, Donal Whelan, Technical Director of the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA), Minister of State for Forestry, Shane McEntee TD, Brendan Lacey, Chairman ITGA and Tom Byrne, Coillte.*