

INDUSTRY NEWS

LATIN AMERICA

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

PANAMA

Industria Papelera del Caribe, Panama City, ordered a Thermo Black Clawson/Lamort Batch Scavenger and two Thermo Black Clawson Mini-Screen pressure screens to upgrade the quality of pulp going to its tissue machine.

URUGUAY

NEWS FROM CELSO FOELKEL

URUGUAY PLANTING INDUSTRIAL FORESTS

When someone mentions forest plantations for industrial wood production, the focus is usually placed on Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, or Australia. Although few have heard about the developments underway in Uruguay, the country shows dynamic growth in forestry.

Uruguay is a small country compared to Brazil and Argentina (Uruguay's size is 2% of Brazil and 6% of Argentina, respectively).

According to the World Bank, Uruguay is a relatively small country in both area (176,000 km²) and population (3.2 million inhabitants). Its per-capita income of US\$ 6020/year in 1997 is high by Latin American standards. Poverty is the lowest in Latin America, and income distribution compares favorably with that of many developed countries. Most (91%) of the population is urban, and many have a good education. For a developing country, the population growth is small (0.6%/year), and life expectancy is outstanding (74 years).

In 1997, the GDP was over US\$ 20 billion, with a growth of 5.1% over 1996. An estimated average growth of 3.5%/year is expected from 1998 to 2002. Agriculture accounts for 12% of GDP, and industry is responsible for 23%.

The forestry sector has been positively impacted by these growth rates. Thanks to a well-coordinated policy to

speed forest plantations, the country has opened its doors to investments in forestry, both domestic and international. Many small investors from several segments of the Uruguayan population have invested in a popular program to grow forests (Invierta en Forestacion, promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture from the Federal Government).

A large percentage (85%) of Uruguay's land area is available for agriculture and forest growth. The successes of its Brazilian and Argentinean neighbors in growing trees (mainly eucalyptus and pine) were driving forces to implementing this program. The species selected to grow in Uruguay were *Eucalyptus grandis*, *E. globulus*, *E. dunntii*, *E. viminalis*, *Pinis elliotii*, and *P. taeda*.

Based on soil fertility, topographic conditions, weather, and potential forest yields, the following areas were designated for this forestation program: Paysandu, Soriano, Rio Negro, Rivera, Durazno, Maldonado, and Tucuarembó. The total potential area for plantations is nearly 2 million hectares (ha) (12% of the country's area). Forest yields are good and may be improved (pines grow at 15-25 m³/ha/year, and eucalyptus grows at 20-35 m³/ha/year).

The technology to achieve high-quality plantations, good forest yields, and superior wood quality is being gradually introduced and upgraded. International partners, as well as the neighboring countries of Brazil and Argentina, are helping with these developments. Since Uruguay began planting trees in the early 1990s, several countries have participated in technology and genetic material exchanges.

Because of these actions, the Uruguayan industry has become competitive and increased its exports. Timber exports are about US\$ 65 million/year and increasing. Furthermore, an additional 2000 ha of new plantations are being added annually.

—Foelkel is a consultant at Celsius Degree, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

ASIA PACIFIC

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

INDIA

Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills Ltd., Rajahmundry, placed an order with Thermo Black Clawson for a complete fiber line of washing and screening equipment. The mill produces 300 metric tons/day of printing and writing papers, board, and uncoated freesheet from a blended furnish of bamboo and tropical hardwood pulps.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Asia Pulp & Paper's Suzhou mill in the Jiangsu province is installing a Raumaster extensive roll-handling system.

Included in the delivery is Raumaster's roll-tracking system, which will be used to plan incoming orders and print bar codes and customer labels.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

NEWS FROM HUNTLY G. HIGGINS

CARBON CREDITS

The question of carbon credits has been raised in the context of the sale of Victorian Plantations Corp. to Hancock Victorian Plantations. A report by the Auditor-General to the State Parliament indicated that while the state achieved a good result from the sale, it forfeited the right to share in