

EFFECTIVE WOOD UTILIZATION THAT TENDS TO 'ZERO WASTES' IN OGUN
STATE, NIGERIA.

ADEKUNLE, M. FEMI

Abstract

This paper discusses the antecedents of forest utilization vis-a-vis wood and wood products processing in sawmills with sawmilling activities in Nigeria and Abeokuta as a case study. This is with a view to highlight some of the systems and techniques in wood harvesting and processing in order to identify areas of wastes, in wood processing. Hence the paper has been able to describe some of the socio-economic profiles of sawmills in Abeokuta, such as profitability, employment rates and problems militating against the success of sawmilling enterprises.

The paper went further to identify some of the waste generated right from the point of harvesting in the forest to processing in the mills. This includes off cuts, sawdust, slabs and chips, wood shavings and log barks. These wastes have the potentials of being used for charcoal, energy generation, particleboard and block board manufacture. The barks are ingredients for traditional medicines. Some strategies towards the effective wood utilization that could eventually lead to a "zero waste" were suggested. The conclusion was reached that with appropriate planning at the different levels of wood utilization coupled with technology development and periodic personnel training, it is possible to attain a 'zero waste' status in wood utilization in Ogun State. More so, what is presently being referred to as wood waste could be converted into wealth in sawmill" enterprises.