

Faculty of Forestry of the Czech University of Agriculture Prague

The first university cycle of lectures on forest management started in 1848 (15 November 1848) by Křištof Liebich at the Technical School of Estates in Prague. With a little of exaggeration we should soon celebrate the 150th anniversary of education at the forestry university. However, forestry sciences made a long way in one and half of century should be taken into account.

In 1919 (16 March 1919) started lectures in new field of forestry engineering of the later University of Agriculture and Forest Engineering of the Czech University of Technology in Prague. It is worth mentioning that this field has been established by the will of the teaching staff of the Czech University of Technology (6 November 1918) and only later has been approved by the Ministry of Education. The field of forest engineering was renewed in

post-war period in 1945 to be changed into scientific institute after general changes of organization which went through in 1952. In 1964 it has become a scientific institute for long 26 years. After its restoration the Faculty of Forestry has acquired new, broader present form. The teachers and scientific workers of the above-mentioned Institute became the basic staff of the Faculty of Forestry.

Nowadays, the Faculty of Forestry has ten departments: Department of Ecology, Department of Establishment and Cultivation of Forests, Department of Dendrology and Breeding of Forest Tree Species, Department of Forest Management, Department of Forest Protection, Department of Harvesting and Timber Processing, Institute of Timber Engineering, Department of Forest Economics, Department of Biotechnological Landscape Manage-



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Arboretum of the Faculty of Forestry, Kostelec nad Černými lesy

ment, Department of Water Management, Department of Constructions. Large library and breeding station with arboretum, both situated at Kostelec nad Černými lesy, are parts of it.

Education consists of three branches of engineer degree and one bachelor's degree: forest engineering, landscape engineering, wood engineering and bachelor's studies – economic and administration service in forest management. Landscape engineering is divided into the following specializations: cultural and technical engineering, applied ecology and land reclamations. Subjects of study of forest and landscape engineering are mutually connected by many technical, biological and economic branches. Wood industry branch is based on broad cooperation with other faculties of the Czech University of Agriculture and other universities, as well as with the Research and Development Institute of Wood Industry in Prague. There is a low number of students in the class of different five-years' engineering branches. Such is the situation in these branches all over the world. A predicted number of graduates corresponds to the needs of practice. Three-year bachelor's studies is supplemented by a wide range of subjects of the Faculty of Forestry.



Torrent damming in the School Forest Enterprise

Branches of forest and landscape engineering are a combination of biological, technical and economic subjects. If the problems of the forest management are fully defined and the study has a long tradition, then the problem of landscape loaded by various anthropogenic impacts is extremely broad and cannot be defined easily and simply. In both branches theoretical basis, defined by subjects included in the first state examination at the beginning of the fifth term of the studies (mathematics, botany, geodesy, zoology, ecology, etc.), is considered as very important. In the branch of forest engineering specialists for leading positions in state, municipal and private forests, state administration and for special services (e.g. forest management). Landscape engineers are prepared for designing and technical works in outdoor conditions, in landscape of agricultural and forest type, in protected landscape areas, etc.

Wood industry branch, when established, was aimed at emphasizing approach to wood as a material of biological origin which is an important, renewable material. It educates specialists for different methods of wood processing. This branch participates only a little in subjects common for both

preceding branches, but as a whole, it is very close to them. It can be mentioned that before establishment of independent wood industry branch after the World War II forest engineers were qualified and professional specialists in sawmilling industry as well as in wood processing industry.

In some branches practical training in the field is much emphasized. School forest enterprise at Kostelec nad Černými lesy (35 km from Prague), allocated as early as in 1934 by the Czechoslovak government to prepare forest engineers. It is very interesting that yet Krištof Liebich in 1860 demanded allocation of forests near Brandýs nad Labem for education of forestry at university (proposal to establish the Academy of Forestry in Prague).

The Faculty of Forestry has extensive demonstration and experimental plots, station for breeding of forest woody species and arboretum (established in 1954) at the school farm in Kostelec nad Černými lesy with more than 2 000 taxons of various woody species.

Searching for share and range of theory, practical applications, demonstrations and excursions, encyclopedic surveys and independent work of students and their ability to study on their own are very important for present and future work of the Faculty of Forestry.

Scientific and research activity of the Faculty is distributed in a different way among all departments. We can mention some of the most important research projects: Monitoring of avian populations in the Czech Republic; Long-term comparative study of immission load of Krušné Hory region on example of vertebrates; Regeneration of forest stands of immission areas in Krušné Hory Mountains; Problems of insect pests in forest management – Šumava National Park; Mathematical modelling of technologies of harvesting; Plant explants, vegetative propagation in vitro, water regimes in various types of water basins; Regeneration of the countryside – agricultural constructions. Students and doctorands are involved in the above research and scientific activities.

The Faculty of Forestry has accredited series of branches of the doctoral study: ecology, landscape and applied ecology, economics and business management, technology and farm machinery in forest management, agricultural and forestry hydrology, anatomy and physiology of plants, forest cultivation, forest management, forest protection and game management.

In the future the Faculty will endeavour to keep the high level of education, science and research. This requires two prerequisites: qualified teachers and talented, gifted students. There is a saying: the university is good if it has good students.

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