

Italian statement on potential wood supply.

The potential wood supply is not easy to assess in Italy for several reasons.

First of all there is a lack of reliable statistics and the available pieces of information are often not harmonised and difficult to be taken into account for the compilation of a national wood balance.

Furthermore in Italy the responsibility of the management of forest resources is completely regional and for the State Administration it is sometimes difficult to gather updated information from the 21 local Forest Administrations.

A part from traditional wood removals, which are regularly recorded, but very likely underestimated, the knowledge on production and use of residues (both from forest and from the industry), self production of fuel wood (from forest and other wooded land, fruit trees and other minor sources), wood recycling and other related activities, is relatively poor and inconsistent. Another difficult item to assess is the wood consumption at industrial and household level. This latter has been the object of a recent sample survey financed by the National Agency for the Environmental Protection, that has been presented during the “Workshop on National Wood Resources Balances” held here in Geneva.

On the other hand the knowledge on Forest Resources has improved a lot thanks to the second National Forest Inventory, whose final data will be published very soon. The NFI shows that the total Growing stock is about 1.260 billion cubic meters, of which 12 million cm belong to intensive wood plantations. Considered that the current annual increment is equal to 35,6 million cm, is quite evident that there is an interesting potential for additional wood removals, whose 2006 amount was estimated as only 8.6 million.

One thing that must be noted is that the share of wood fuel (5.6 million cm in 2006, mainly produced in coppice stands of oaks and other autochthonous broadleaved species), represents almost the double of the industrial roundwood produced and that wood fuel removals are probably increasing year by year more than what official statistics are showing. This undetected production, mainly due to imperfect administrative procedures and to an increasing rate of self consumption at farm level could be empirically estimate around the 30% of the official data (about 2 additional million mc in absolute figures).

The latest attempt to estimate the national potential offer of woody biomass has been made in 2006 on the basis of existing statistics and other studies published between 2001 and 2005. This estimate is contained in the book “Una nuova economia del legno-arredo tra industria, energia e cambiamento climatico”, edited in 2007 by FrancoAngeli s.r.l. Milano, Italy. In the following table other potential sources of biomass, apart from the already mentioned wood removals from forest are reported. Quantities are in the original units used in the publication (cubic meters or metric tons).

| Source | Quantity (1000 units) | Source | Quantity (1000 units) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rows of trees (branches and tops) | 460 mt | Industrial residues | 8 700 mt |
| Groups of trees (branches and tops) | 67 m ³ | Wood waste and packaging | 643 mt |
| Pruning residues | 420 m ³ | Import of wood fuel | 1 099 m ³ |
| Stumps | 190 m ³ | Import of residues | 1 301 m ³ |
| Arboriculture | 1 6000 mt | Import of chips and particles | 1.794 m ³ |
| Fruit trees (branches, etc.) | 11 800 m ³ | Import of wood charcoal | 64 mt |
| Short rotation forestry | 94 mt | | |