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# **Challenges for Forestry Contractors - an Example from a new EU- -Member State**

***„Sustainable forestry needs sustainable contractors”  
10th of December, 2008,  
Maison du Bois, Brussels***



- **97% of forest related work in Poland is done by Private Forest Contractors**
- **80% in Europe**
- **contractors work has economical, social and environmental implications for development of rural areas**





## **Current status of forestry contracting in Poland**

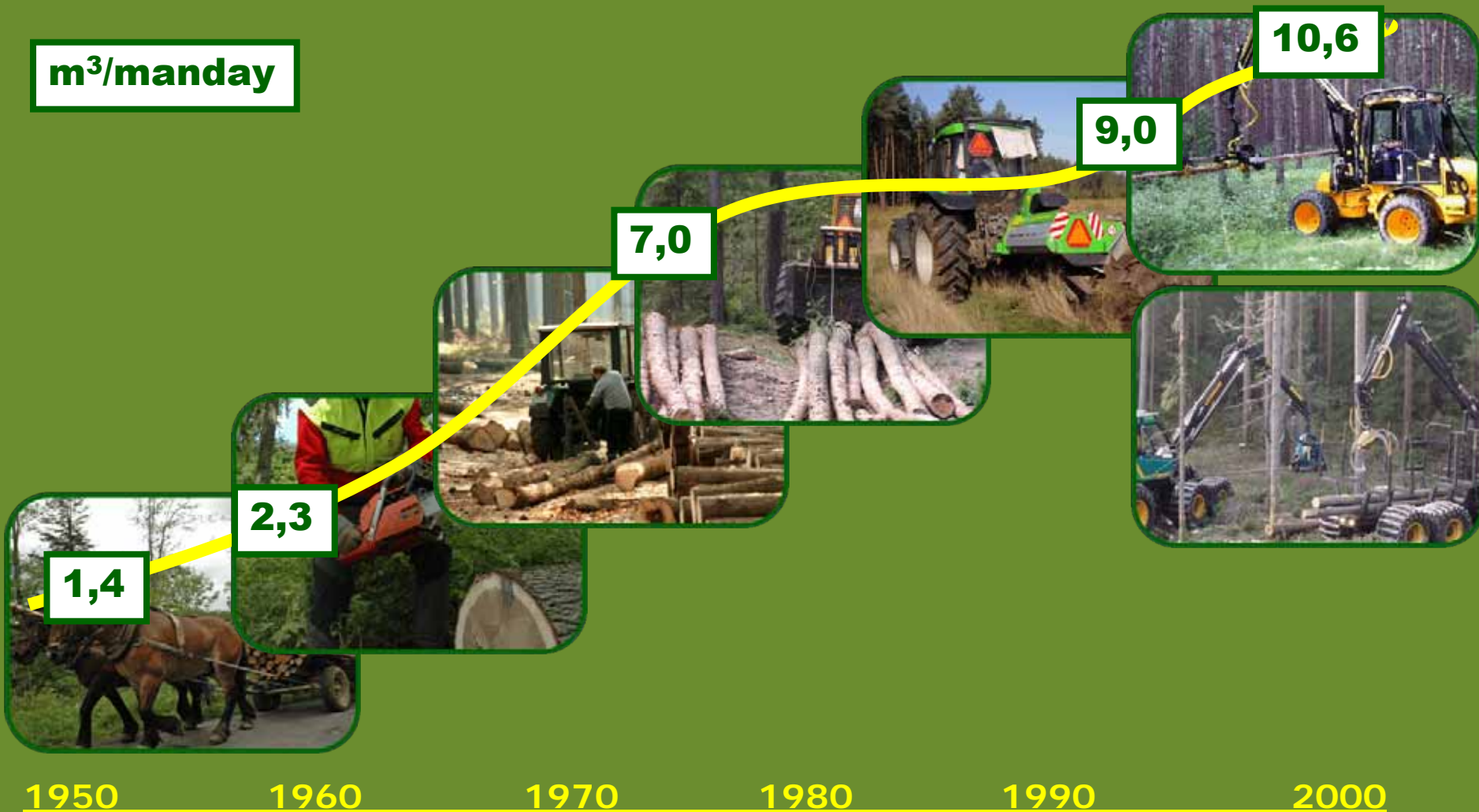
- 40 000 people working within 5000 companies**
- only 450 companies above 10 employees**
- work dominated by hand harvesting, tractors, hand work in forest silviculture**
- highest level of accidents after coal mining**
- short term contract – lack of credits: vicious circle**
- middle effectiveness at the level of 3,5m<sup>3</sup>/man per day**





# Forestry technologies and related effectiveness

m<sup>3</sup>/manday



1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

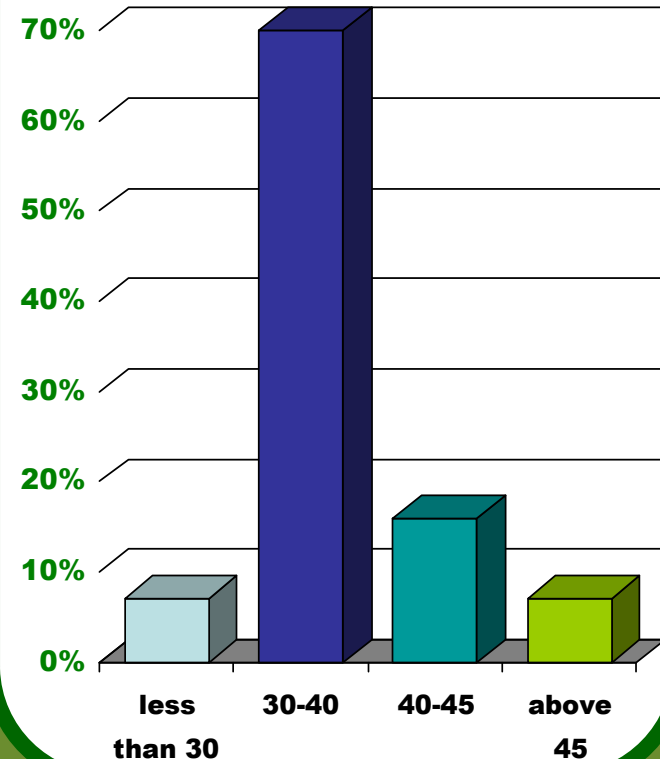
2000



# Economical and social implications for rural areas

- ❑ low effectiveness provide low salaries
- ❑ used technologies require high human energetic input, classified as the highest in the legal 5-level scale (> 2200 Kcal/Shift)
- ❑ in fact this reach 3100 Kcal (where 1900 - permanent work efficiency)
- ❑ forest workers becoming pensioners in the age 40-50
- ❑ loose of qualified staff, attractiveness decrease for living in rural areas
- ❑ lack of young people willing to start/stay at business

**Age structure of forest contractor employees in Poland**





# Environmental consequences

- ❑ „Traditional” technologies have higher negative impact on sensitive forest soil cover and upper layers and erosion risks
- ❑ Existing modern technology reduce destruction of standing trees, shrubs and vegetation
- ❑ Existing, advanced technologies significantly reduce waste and energetic/fuel expenditure for product (wood) unit and CO<sub>2</sub> emission





# The challenge

## Existing technologies:

- reduce negative environmental impact
- improve health and safety of forest workers, lower the level of accidents and diseases
- humanisation forest works and extend time of working activity through lower energy expenditure
- increase effectiveness and improve economical situation of employees
- introduce standardised of wood processing which fulfil expectation trade and next forest products conversion chains





**We, forest contractors, are ready.  
European Union need ...**



**... a mechanism which can guarantee, that part of already available financial resources related to forestry and rural areas will be utilised by Private Forest Contractors.**

**We call the European Commission to include Private Forest Contractors in Europe as beneficiaries within the revision of existing Rural Development Programme**



**In the presentation scientific and statistical material of:**

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• **Polish State Forest National forest Holding**

• **European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs**

• **Association of Forest Entrepreneurs in Poland**

• **Pictures by Jakub Kubiak, Robert Knysak, Juan Carlos Reyes**

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