

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA

ODNOS ŠUMARSTVA I PRERADE DRVA

Za odvijanje, te posebice poboljšanje stanja u bilo kojoj gospodarskoj djelatnosti, potrebno je imati najmanje dva pokazatelja, trenutno stanje kao polazište i mogući cilj koji se želi dostići, a da se poštuju sva načela struke. To se zove Strategija ili u šumarstvu Šumarska politika, koje, kao što smo već na ovome mjestu pisali, nemamo (ako ne računamo onu Vlade iz 2003. god.). No, gospodareći po načelu potrajnosti kroz 2,5 stoljeća, očuvana je kvaliteta, prirodnost i bioraznolikost hrvatskih šuma. Taj obnovljivi prirodni resurs kroz drveni proizvod, posebice kao sirovinu za drveno-tehnološku obradu te općekorisne funkcije koje osigurava društvu, ostvaruje određeni finansijski prihod kojim pokriva ulaganja u tu gospodarsku granu privrede, a još se iz upitno ostvarenog profita uplaćuju i određena sredstva u državni proračun. Zašto kažemo iz upitno ostvarenoga profita? S jedne strane šumski drveni proizvodi nisu tržišno vrednovani, a s druge strane tražeći profit kojega je moguće ostvariti upravo zanemarivanjem načela potrajnoga gospodarenja, kao na primjer uštedama na odgađanju ili neizvršenju Gospodarskom osnovom propisanih uzgojnih radova, povećanjem etata, pa i "kvalitativnome sječom" (figurativno, furnirci naprijed, ostali stoj). Da li je moguće da smo do toga došli ili ćemo uskoro doći, ako nastavimo šutjeti ne ukazujući na činjenično stanje? A činjenično stanje je ponajprije netržišno vrednovanje drvnih sortimenata i drastično smanjenje finansijskih sredstava namijenjenih za očuvanje općekorisnih funkcija šuma (OKFŠ) koje trebaju plaćati svi korisnici. Osnovom gospodarenja propisani su ciljevi i rokovi izvršenja pojedinih radova. Kada je riječ o drvnim sortimentima, zadaća je u sastojinama odrediti buduće nositelje proizvodnje i njima kroz uzgojne, uređivačke i zaštitarske radove pogodovati u daljnjem razvoju, s ciljem dobivanja najkvalitetnijih sortimenata. Primjerice kod hrasta to se čini i do 160 godina starosti sastojine, što će reći tijekom rada četiri generacije šumarskih stručnjaka. Pitamo se, čemu činiti sve to, ako taj visoko vrijedni drveni proizvod ne postiže pravu cijenu. Kada bi drvoprerađivač za njega platio pravu cijenu, tada bi npr. hrastov furnirski trupac završio na furnirskome nožu (rezan na 0,8 mm debljine), a ne u pilani rezan u samice ili još gore u "planke", koje će onda inozemni drvoprerađivači "doraditi" u furnir. Mnogima nije jasno da je ovakav negospodarski odnos prema šumskim drvnim sortimentima rasipanje nacionalnog bogatstva, kojega, nažalost Država (politika) kao najveći vlasnik toga bogatstva podržava pogodujući privatnome kapitalu, nasjedajući na neprestanu kuknjavu drvoprerađivača o previsokim cijenama drvnih sortimenata, a koje su u prosjeku upola niže

od onih na europskom tržištu i najniže u neposrednom okruženju. Na nedavno održanom savjetovanju drvoprerađivača u Opatiji "svirana je ista melodija", a mjerodavni šumarnici po običaju šute. Nitko, uz već prethodno rečeno, nije postavio pitanje, primjerice: drvo kao osnovna sirovina u visoko finaliziranom proizvodu sudjeluje s oko 14 do maksimalno 20 % vrijednosti proizvoda – zašto je onda samo najavljivano minimalno povećanje cijena šumskih proizvoda prema njihovim stvarnim vrijednostima problem, a ostali troškovi proizvodnje ne? Ili drugo pitanje: kako to da se isplati proizvoditi pelete iz sirove a ne već suhe biomase kao otpada iz finalne obrade drva, kako se to u svijetu radi, ako je cijena šumskih proizvoda realna? U ekonomici je poznat termin "renta položaja" – upravo tu rentu položaja imaju naši drvoprerađivači – nekima trupac, uvjetno rečeno, pada gotovo na samo stovarište trupaca – kako to da nisu konkurentniji od onih koji imaju velike troškove transporta? Izraditi visoko kvalitetni drveni proizvod, s velikom dodanom vrijednošću (što omogućava veću zaposlenost) i konkurentan na svjetskom tržištu danas zahtijeva znanje, stručnost radnika i tehnološku opremljenost proizvođača. Pitanje je koliko se ulaže u znanje, potiče stručnost i ulaže u nove tehnologije obrade drva, ili se primjerice u trci za lakom i kratkoročnom zaradom ulaže izvan osnovne djelatnosti (npr. stanogradnju), ostajući dužnikom dobavljačima, tražeći prolongiranje plaćanja, pa i otpis dugovanja za drvo kao osnovnu sirovinu proizvodnje? Načelno, privatni poduzetnici kažu da su plaće u realnom sektoru niže od onih u javnom sektoru, što je prema dostupnim podacima točno, no upitno je da li su u realnom sektoru to stvarne ili samo "prijavljene", plaće kako bi porezi i doprinosi bili manji. Sredstva uložena u OKFŠ pripomažu dobivanju FSC certifikata za hrvatske šume, a njega koriste isključivo drvoprerađivači, pozivajući se kod prodaje svojih proizvoda na korištenje sirovine iz certificiranih šuma – zašto onda traže njihovo smanjenje, pa i potpuno ukidanje? Da li se obostrano poštuju ugovori o isporuci određenih količina drvene sirovine, ili se od šumarstva traži još više sirovine kada je konjunktura, a kada ona padne ne preuzimaju se niti ugovorene količine? Pitanja bi bilo još, a ova smo naveli kao poticaj mjerodavnima za razmišljanje. Ipak još samo jedno ali bitno pitanje: ne pile li drvoprerađivači granu na kojoj sjede? No, naravno, sva ova pitanja ne tiču se na žalost malog broja korektnih drvoprerađivača, nego većine onih koji su zalutali u drvoprerađivačke vode, želeći brzu zaradu bez obzira na posljedice za šume, a za svoju nesposobnost i neznanje traže opravdanje svugdje, samo ne kod sebe.

Uredništvo

EDITORIAL

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORESTRY AND WOOD PROCESSING

There are at least two indicators that are needed in order to develop and improve the condition of any economic activity: the current condition as a starting point, and the goal to be achieved. It goes without saying that all the principles of the profession should be strictly followed. This is called Strategy or Forest Policy in forestry, which, as we have already mentioned in an earlier column, is sadly missing (not counting the 2003 policy set forth by the Government). Still, the quality, naturalness and biodiversity of Croatian forests have been preserved by strict adherence to the principle of sustainability applied for two and a half centuries. This renewable natural resource makes a certain amount of profit by providing wood products, raw material for wood-technological processing and non-market forest functions. Not only is this modest financial profit used to cover investments in this economic branch, but a certain amount is also paid into the state budget. Why do we say "modest profit"? On the one hand, forest wood products do not have their market value, yet on the other, it is required that they make profit. Profit can be made if the principles of sustainable management are neglected, e.g. savings are made by postponing or even eliminating silvicultural activities from the Management Plan, increasing the annual cut and carrying out "qualitative felling" (figuratively: veneer producers advance, the others halt!). Is it possible that we have reached, or will soon reach this situation if we keep silent and not raise our voice against the current state of affair? The current state of affair primarily involves non-market evaluation of wood assortments and drastic cuts in the financial means intended for the preservation of non-market forest values. These means should, according to the law, be paid by all the users. The goals and terms of completion of silvicultural activities are prescribed by the Management Plan. In terms of wood assortments, it is necessary to identify future bearers of production in the stands. In order to obtain the best quality assortments, the bearers should be favoured through management and protection activities. For example, in the case of oak, these activities may last until a stand reaches 160 years of age, or in other words, for four generations of forestry experts. We may well ask ourselves if this is at all worthwhile if such a high quality wood product does not achieve an adequate price on the market. If wood processing companies were forced to pay a proper price, then an oak veneer log would end up under the veneer knife (cut to 0.8 mm thickness) and not in a sawmill cut into unedged boards or even worse, into planks, which a foreign wood processor would then "upgrade" into veneer.

In a matter of fact, there are still many who do not realize that such an uneconomic attitude towards forest wood assortments squanders the country's national resources. Sadly, it is the State (politics) as the major owner of this resource, that supports this attitude by favouring private capital and by falling for the incessant complaints of wood processing companies about excessive prices of wood assortments (which are cheaper by half than those on the European market and the lowest in the nearest environ-

ment). "The same old tune" was played at a recently held conference of wood processing companies in Opatija; at the same time, the competent foresters, as usual, did not say a word. There was nobody to raise any questions, such as, for example: why does the announced minimal increase in price relates only to forest products and not to other production costs when wood as the basic resource participates in the highly finalized product with about 14 to maximally 20% of the product value? Or: how come that it is profitable to produce pellets from raw material and not from the already dry biomass resulting from final wood processing? In the rest of the world, where the price of forest products is realistic, pellets are normally produced from waste biomass.

There is a term in economics known to many – "position rent". It is precisely this rent that our wood processing companies possess – to some of them, logs, conditionally said, fall straight to the depot – how come they are not more competitive than those who have high transportation costs? The production of a high quality wood product that has high additional value (which leads to higher employment) and is competitive on the world market requires knowledge, expertise, worker skills and technologically equipped producers. How much is invested in knowledge, expertise and new wood processing technologies? Or maybe, in the race for easy and short-term profit, companies invest money outside the basic activity (e.g. housing), while at the same time remaining in debt to the suppliers and requiring prolongation of payment or even write offs of debts for wood as the basic raw material. In principle, private entrepreneurs say that salaries in the real sector are lower than salaries in the public sector. According to the available data, this is true, but whether these are real salaries or only "reported" salaries so as to pay lower taxes and levies is doubtful.

The means invested in non-market forest functions help obtain FSC certification for Croatian forests. These are used exclusively by wood processing companies which sell their products by stressing that their raw material comes from certified forests. Why then do they support the reduction and even elimination of these means? Are contracts on the delivery of certain quantities of wood raw material mutually honoured, or are more raw materials required from forestry only at the time of favourable market rise, but when the conditions worsen then not even the contracted quantities are accepted?

There are many more issues to discuss, but we mentioned the few above in order to provide the authority with food for thought. There is one more vital question: are wood processing companies sawing off the branch they are sitting on? Naturally, these questions do not refer to an, unfortunately, small number of correct wood processing companies, but to the majority of those who have sauntered in wood processing waters, seeking easy profit regardless of the consequences for the forests. They look for the justification for their incompetence and ignorance everywhere else but at their own doorstep.