



Description of the position of the Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor of Business economics of forestry at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

The forest sector is made up of a wide range of product and service value chains based on forest ecosystem services. The business in the forest sector is based on generating added value for the actors involved in the various stages of the value chains. The most significant of the forestry value chains are timber production, timber harvesting and transportation while the forest industry produces an ever-expanding range of different final products and services. The importance of other forest ecosystem services (recreational use, forests as carbon sinks, maintenance of biodiversity) is growing in the society.

The forest sector is a major source of export earnings in Finland (approximately 20 per cent of the export value) and generates income for forest owners, materials for building materials, bio-based energy, berries and mushrooms, and various benefits related to nature tourism and health.

Today, the forest sector is often described as a forest bioeconomy, with the aim of crossing sectoral boundaries and creating new value for the energy, chemical, pharmaceutical or food industry markets based on renewable wood raw materials or other forest products. The forest bioeconomy is thus closely linked to the societal change towards sustainability, and to the concepts of circular economy, resource wisdom or low carbon economy.

Business research and expertise in the forest sector are important for the development of a sustainable future for the forest bioeconomy in Finland and globally. Key research areas focus on the value-adding activities of companies, forest owners, other actors and organizations. Topics covered by this position as Assistant/Associate Professor or Professor of Business economics of forestry include: business profitability issues, business renewal and investment, internationalization of companies, as well as issues related to finance, accounting and sustainable entrepreneurship.

Economic and business issues related to the sustainable use of forests are an important part of the research and teaching profile of the Department of Forest Sciences. Graduates have been employed mainly in the private sector, including the forest industry, finance, or consulting.

On the Viikki campus, business and economics is located at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, with a focus on bringing basic and applied knowledge on issues related to the use of national and global natural resources, climate and the environment to support societal decision-making.

In the position of an Assistant/Associate Professor or Professor of Business economics of forestry, important disciplines of co-operation are e.g. professorships in forest product markets, strategic

marketing, forest economics, climate change economics and agricultural business economics. Business research in the forest sector is also linked to sustainability sciences at the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science of the University of Helsinki (HELSUS).

In the position there is an opportunity for extensive forest sector-wise co-operation and important collaborators include e.g. forest, environmental, energy and climate research institutes, companies, forest owners and other forest related organization nationally and internationally. The Natural Resources Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute are key partners for research cooperation, and also located at the Viikki campus.