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Methodology of monitoring wood sources and consumption in the Czech Republic

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Abstract: Currently, it is difficult to identify correct data on wood sources and their consumption in the Czech Republic. Official statistics of wood production are relatively limited to obtaining data that accurately captures the objective wood production, which would enable the observation of the direction or consumption of particular tree species or products. This uncertainty is then transferred to the wood flow for industrial and energy processing, and it is not possible to compose a detailed picture of how much wood and which sources enter into the wood processing and how large the total material flow is. The aim of this paper is to present an option for how to determine this lack of valid information that enables clear outcomes necessary for decision making by means of the recalculation of wood sources consumed in the Czech Republic, using the data of processing capacities and foreign trade. The reverse model better expressed a conversion value of roundwood into the products and allowed optimal approximation in the wood sources assessment.

Keywords: forest-based sector; conversion factors; reverse method; wood flow

Development of the wood-processing industry is a complex issue where each investor, aside from the financial and technological decisions, first explores the industry's resource options. The availability of sufficient volume and appropriate raw material quality for primary processing is one of the basic conditions for successful investment and operation of wood-processing capacities. Knowledge of the total wood production and especially the structure of the produced wood enables better assessment of operational, technological, and business risks. The wood flow structure gives basic information about the available raw materials for each type of processing, however, only if information is available about the wood production structure. Otherwise, it is necessary to conduct an inverted procedure and reconstruct the

wood flow based on the production of primary processing. This procedure provides important inputs for examining the efficiency of processing structure and its potential. It is very important for tracking the global competitiveness of the forest industry and it enables comparing different wood flow models in the processing of wood volume or total created value.

While the wood flow issue has been treated in other countries, it has not been mentioned in the Czech Republic. The analysis of the tools and methods currently in use for reporting woody biomass availability in 21 European countries, provided by Barreiro et al. (2016), has shown that most countries use National Forest Inventory-oriented models, whereas the others use methods based on forest management plans.

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The approach to the wood flow and its interpretation contains several options for a balanced approach, which is best captured in Mantau (2015), who concluded this from the available information about wood sources and the volume of its utilization or consumption. This approach is simple, clear, and effective in the demonstration of the transformation of primary wood sources into the products and of the co-production used for further types of processing or consumption (referred to as ‘cascade’). It is possible to identify the strengths and weaknesses of processing and provide optimizations so that the wood flow will bring the greatest potential.

The cascading principle, by presenting the utilization of wood resources in the German region, was used in the study of Taskhiri et al. (2016), which focused on the logistics networks for wood flow. The cascade utilization is considered the most suitable from the logistic point of view. The design of a quantitative wood flow chart in Japan was constructed by Kobayashi et al. (2017) with an aim to find possibilities for wood self-sufficiency.

Lenglet et al. (2017) applied a similar approach to Mantau’s for material flow in the context of the climate change policy and energy transformation for the use of wood for energy purposes and described the wood flow in France. Even in this work, he criticized the need to systematize conversion units and consumption factors within the flow of material for each product and raw material in relation to the applied technology. Otherwise, it is necessary to use certain limitations or mathematical and statistical methods.

A different approach should be applied when there is neither reliable nor complete data on wood sources and their utilization. It may be the applied method of Latta et al. (2013) that contains the models implemented so far and their mutual relations to express the balance between the wood sources and their utilization. It is a very complex approach. However, this approach is limited to the global level of wood sources and consumption, and it can only be used for the national level with the modification and supplementation of methods for national or local levels.

The application of the approach described by Džubur et al. (2017) is a practical starting point for eliminating the problems of uncertainty (validity and availability) of the data needed for each wood flow model. Mathematical approaches are applied to fill in missing data based on a set of variables and

their dependence functions when using roundwood in various consumptions with the help of fuzzy logic. This approach eliminates the need for the demanding, and often impossible, detection of accurate data. However, it requires a complete model description of wood sources as well as consumption. It also demands the most accurate conversion factors for the material use of roundwood in different products and energy transformation. This mathematical modelling is basically a function in which one can gradually complement and specify the applied constants and variables.

To include uncertainties and interdependencies between stages of the wood supply chain and resource constraints, a simulation model of wood supply chains was developed and presented by Mobini et al. (2013). The model showed values of particular types of costs in the wood supply chain.

In the Czech Republic, several authors have dealt with wood sources and their determination, such as Kupčák and Pek (2015), who in the paper “The Level of the Wood Raw Material Base Processing in the Czech Republic”, focused on the wood source balance and pointed to their minimal level of use, based on the available official data sources (data from Ministry of Agriculture of the CR and Ministry of Industry and Trade of the CR). Trend indicators of the processing apply company data so that a development database necessary for the production stability assessment can be created. From this point of view, the conclusions of the work can be taken as correspondent or comparative with the findings obtained in the analyses necessary for this work.

In summary, in the last few years, the issue of the efficiency of wood use has become the object of exploration in a wider context than just material utilization. The methods and processes are investigated to find a balance or rather a dynamic equilibrium between resources and consumption while questioning the optimal processing structure and how to achieve it, or how to find the minimum feasible loss.

This study deals with the determination of wood consumption data in the Czech Republic. It indirectly shows the minimum volume of wood production in the Czech Republic which is essential to fill the primary processing capacities of wood. The objective of the paper is to propose and analyse the method of identification of wood sources so that some limitations, inhibiting the more accurate expression of wood flow in the application of mathematical and statistical models, can be replaced.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The proposal of a methodology for the monitoring of wood sources and its consumption requires several input analyses. A framework for the methodology of wood flow detection is defined as follows.

Sources of roundwood (forest biomass): analysis of available sources of information and evaluation of the general processing potential of individual categories of available wood. The source of information is the Green Report of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (MA) (<http://eagri.cz/public/web/en/mze/publications/publications-forest>) and statistical data of the Czech Statistical Office (CSO) for forestry (<https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/lesnictvi-2016>). Within the analysis, limitations and additional values are identified to gain a comprehensive conception of wood supplies for domestic processing. The year 2016 was chosen because of the best data availability.

Wood import and export (foreign trade balance): Analysis of roundwood export and import for determining the volume in the wood flow processing is focused on the overall trend of the identifiable products (at least at the level of roundwood products) according to the MA and the CSO. Foreign trade data published by the MA were based on the data issued by the CSO. Foreign trade data were obtained from two systems, Intrastat and Extrastat. In the Intrastat report, the data was acquired directly from the companies (sending and receiving) in connection with the data on value added tax (VAT) and trade with the European Union (EU) countries. Mathematical and statistical calculations were part of Intrastat data processing and so the loss of information was compensated as a consequence of non-response and implementation of statistical thresholds. The remaining part of the foreign trade realized, mainly with non-European Union countries, is still subject to common customs procedures. Customs Declarations (single administrative documents) are a source of statistical data for the Extrastat report. In the foreign trade section, this study identifies the volume of wood export and import in the correction of non-conformities and compares it with available official data.

Primary industrial processing without further distinction in energy production and consumption: The wood volume entering the processing is reported in the statistical report of the Ministry of Agriculture elaborated by the Czech Statistical Office (MA 2016; CSO 2016).

Within the proposal of the monitoring methodology for the wood flow, this study is focused on the limited data sources concerning the input of roundwood and its correction. The second part seeks to express the real wood consumption through application of the conversion factors of roundwood into the products but in a reverse way. This means that from the known data of the representatives of the companies in the primary processing, the study will express the necessary volume of wood which should be accounted for in the processing. By comparing the data on wood sources and data on company wood consumption, the study determines compliance or differences that need to be treated for further specification of the wood flow in the Czech Republic.

Generally, it is possible to express this procedure as a process where it is needed: (1) to find out types of primary wood processing; (2) to assign the individual types of processing to the average values of the disintegration of the material balance of the yield of 1 m³ of input wood (conversion factors); (3) to determine production volumes of individual types of processing; and (4) to determine production structure and consumption of by-products within one type of primary processing and between different types of processing.

This model allows determining the necessary wood volume input based on the production data and knowledge of the conversion of roundwood into the products.

The methodology enhances only primary wood processing and will not treat the wood consumption out of industrial processing, it does not analyse the wood flow for energy consumption or household consumption, nor will it examine in detail the wood consumption within the energy company production of primary processing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of input analyses

Official statistical monitoring of wood production presents an under bark volume of wood obtained from the statistically restricted group of information providers. It means that the statistics do not provide information on total wood production in the Czech Republic, the group of the forest owners up to 200 ha is excluded. CSO data concerning total wood production as well as major product groups showed that currently the coniferous wood

noticeably prevails. Approximately 9.8 million m³ of logs have wide industrial utilization. There is a high proportion of firewood in both deciduous and coniferous wood. The question is whether it is idle wood for industrial processing. For deciduous wood, firewood makes up to 47% of the total volume delivered.

The first part of the wood source analysis for the wood flow in industrial processing identifies the following factors:

- roundwood production is reported only as a subset, it does not include all forest owners and wood harvesting out of a specified group of respondents,
- it provides no information on the supply of forest biomass and wood or forest residues and wood chips produced in the forest,
- there is no statistical monitoring of the bark volume from the forest production,
- there is a considerable difference in the statistical monitoring of wood production between the Ministry of Agriculture and National Forest Inventory (NFI identifies average annual production at the level of 21.83 million m³ wood) (Adolt et al. 2016),
- current official data about forest statistics does not give necessary data for an energy consumption assessment,
- classification of wood products and their utilization in the industrial processing is not interconnected with the consumption of the primary processing sector.

One of the common and frequently communicated problems of CSO data is their unreliability in the values expressing technical units. Because the financial statement is due to the relation to VAT, the main required information, it often happens that respondents do not pay much attention to the accuracy of the values expressing the volume in technical units. There is no way but to proceed with several corrections based on mathematical and statistical methods. This is why the Ministry of Agriculture has to use some methods to correct basic data provided by the CSO. However, these recalculations are made over the aggregation of the primary data and not over the individual records of the respondents.

To monitor and evaluate foreign trade properly, it is necessary to use the authors' own procedure to remove the apparent mistakes from the detailed foreign trade data. Application of the limits or elimination of the extremes in primary data allows

the capture of the greatest deviations and the recalculation of the correct values based on the historical development of the products. Thus, more realistic values of the detailed items can be obtained, providing better conclusions.

Input data correction

Wood production data was based on the sources of the CSO Forestry for 2016. Roundwood export and import data were taken from two sources. The first was the corrected CSO database according to its own algorithm, and the second source was the MA Green Report for 2016. The corrected CSO database is the foreign trade statistics data corrected by the largest variations in the number of technical units. The data of the Ministry of Agriculture was taken from their own sources and sources from the CSO. The CSO data correction algorithm is based on the long-term average development of individual items and identifies the extremes of the reported values and according to the weight and price values it corrects the real value in technical units.

Foreign trade statistics contain no detailed import and export classification allowing for the composition of a complete section of individual tree species reported by the CSO in the section Forestry – harvesting. Therefore, aggregations of spruce, fir species, and others were created, only pine was in relation to the foreign trade items. In the case of deciduous trees, the aggregation was made for oak, and in the section others were the remaining tree species, apart from beech, birch, and poplar. Corrections of the roundwood export for the year 2016 were from 1 732 059 m³ to 140 199 m³. Further on, the value of export and import is used according to the corrected data by its own methodology (reversely verifiable and readily corrected for more correct values).

Table 1 is the application of the corrected data database of the CSO and MA with the calculation per consumption (Harvesting – Export + Import). The final difference in the consumption is not essential, and it is clear that the Ministry of Agriculture is now more interested in this issue, because this difference was even 780 000 m³ after the correction in the year 2016. At this level, domestic consumption was dominated by the consumption of spruce and pine. For this purpose, the basic data on wood deliveries was obtained in the amount of 14.1 million m³ of wood under bark.

However, wood production is reported only in the area of 93.17% (use of Forest Management In-

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stitute Information on Czech Forests data with a number of forest management units, published by Matějček 2014). It is therefore necessary to include the volume of wood harvested by owners under 200 ha. This is so far the only available data about the share of forest owners. After applying a relative recalculation for the area of 6.83% (1 291 414 m³), the total wood production would be 18 907 697 m³,

which was a proportional increase considering the same average harvesting per one hectare, and wood consumption in the Czech Republic would then be 15 417 026 m³. It was divided by an even share of deciduous and coniferous wood as for land above 200 ha. Then, the coniferous wood harvested by all owners would be 17.1 million m³ and for deciduous wood 1.82 million m³.

Table 1. Czech Statistical Office (CSO) corrected data and Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (MA) data of wood production by tree species in 2016 (in m³ without bark)

Tree species	Wood production (included self-production)	CSO			MA		
		export	import	consumption	export	import	consumption
Coniferous and deciduous total	17 616 553	5 177 709	1 686 768	14 125 61	5 226 00	1 795 00	14 185 55
Coniferous total	15 923 807	5 034 094	1 486 316	12 376 03	5 079 00	1 500 00	12 344 81
Norway spruce	13 965 499						
Blue spruce and other spruces	20 364						
Silver fir	111 629						
Grand fir and other firs	3 705						
Spruces and firs total	14 101 197	4 547 892	1 215 698	10 769 00	4 566 00	1 227 00	10 762 19
Douglas fir	30 297						
Pine	1 342 189	224 395	253 671	1 371 465	240 000	255 000	1 357 189
Eastern white pine	25 623						
Larch	424 038						
Mountain pine	456						
Other coniferous	7						
Other	480 421	261 807	16 947	235 561	273 000	18 000	225 421
Deciduous total	1 692 746	143 615	200 452	1 749 583	147 000	295 000	1 840 746
Pedunculate oak	219 811						
Sessile oak	148 677						
Other oaks	22 056						
Oaks total	390 544	10 243	51 883	432 184	13 000	135 000	512 544
Beech	746 856	103 820	91 960	734 996	104 000	103 000	745 856
Hornbeam	46 609						
Maple	38 139						
Ash	123 577						
Elm	1 496						
Acacia	17 526						
Birch	162 406	2 318	12 390	172 478	2 000	12 000	172 406
Alder	35 088						
Linden	53 993						
Poplar and aspen	60 033	2 413	2 855	60 475	3 000	4 000	61 033
Willow	5 194						
Other	332 907	24 821	41 364	349 450	25 000	41 000	348 907

Source: CSO (2016) and current study calculations, Ministry of Agriculture (MA 2016)

Table 2. Wood production by tree species after recalculation in 2016 (in m³ with bark)

Wood species	Wood production (included self production)	Wood production by all owners	All owners with bark	Bark	Production by all without fuel wood with bark	Deliveries of wood without bark	Export roundwood	Export others	Import roundwood	Import others
Coniferous and deciduous total	17 616 553	18 907 967	20 889 637	1 981 670	16 391 873	12 900 932	3 519 077	1 658 632	315 113	1 371 65
Coniferous total	15 923 807	17 091 131	18 800 263	1 709 132	15 427 422	11 879 644	3 473 472	1 560 622	248 635	1 237 68
Norway spruce	13 965 499	14 989 266	16 488 209	1 498 943	13 530 159					
Blue spruce and other spruces	20 364	21 857	24 043	2 186	19 729					
Silver fir	111 629	119 812	131 794	11 981	108 149					
Grand fir and other firs	3 705	3 977	4 374	398	3 590					
Spruces and firs total	14 101 197	15 134 911	16 648 419	1 513 508	13 661 627	10 329 433	3 255 633	1 292 259	215 808	999 890
Douglas fir	30 297	32 518	35 770	3 252	29 353					
Pine	1 342 189	1 440 581	1 584 640	144 060	1 300 350	1 329 626	147 686	76 709	29 559	224 112
Eastern white pine	25 623	27 501	30 252	2 750	24 824					
Larch	424 038	455 123	500 636	45 513	410 820					
Mountain pine	456	489	538	49	442					
Other	487 421	523 639	575 204	52 564	472 445	220 585	70 153	191 654	3 268	13 679
Deciduous total	1 692 746	1 816 836	2 089 374	272 538	964 451	1 021 288	45 605	98 010	66 478	133 974
Pedunculate oak	219 811	235 925	271 315	35 390	125 238					
Sessile oak	148 677	159 576	183 514	23 938	84 710					
Other oaks	22 056	23 673	27 224	3 551	12 567					
Oaks total	390 544	419 174	482 052	62 879	222 515	264 155	6 759	3 484	25 777	26 106
Beech	746 856	801 606	921 852	120 246	425 525	413 665	37 410	66 410	37 766	54 194
Hornbeam	46 609	50 026	57 530	7 504	26 556					
Maple	38 139	40 935	47 075	6 141	21 730					
Ash	123 577	132 636	152 532	19 896	70 409					
Elm	1 496	1 606	1 847	241	852					
Acacia	17 526	18 811	21 633	2 822	9 986					
Birch	162 406	174 311	200 459	26 148	92 532	102 604	1 436	882	2 935	9 455
Alder	35 088	37 660	43 309	5 649	19 992					
Linden	53 993	57 951	66 644	8 693	30 763					
Poplar and aspen	60 033	64 434	74 099	9 666	34 204	34 646		2 413		2 855
Willow	5 194	5 575	6 411	836	2 959					
Other	344 192	369 423	424 840	55 416	196 106	206 219		24 821		41 364

Source: own calculation according to input data of the Czech Statistical Office (CSO 2016) and Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (MA 2016)

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The bark volume should be added to this figure as the basic potential of material utilization, for coniferous trees the coefficient was 0.90909 and for deciduous trees it was 0.86956 (see Decree 84 on Forestry Planning, paragraph 7, part L). Therefore, 1 981 670 m³ of bark was obtained. This volume must be further corrected in the flow of processing, another volume is obtained from debarking saw logs and another from pulpwood. Firewood is not debarked. It is necessary to exclude from the wood balance the amount of firewood that is immediately consumed and does not enter the total flow of industrial processing. Firewood volume for 2016 was 2.344 thousand m³. After the recalculation for all forest owners, the firewood volume would be 2 516 094 m³.

The values of consumption and bark volume are adjusted. The volume of the bark exported has to be deducted and the volume of the bark of imported wood has to be added (add the balance). In the foreign trade a difference between the import and export of bark is the wood balance in the amount of 346 000 m³. This means that, in total, 1 635 414 m³ of bark enters the wood flow, without bark from the import and export balance of roundwood. The volume of firewood bark still has to be deducted, which amounts to 294 236 m³ (calculated as the difference between the wood harvested by all owners and the volume of wood of all owners without firewood; thus, the volume of firewood is obtained and the volume of bark using the bark coefficient is calculated). Accordingly, it does not enter into the wood flow as a raw material. Finally, the volume of the bark in the raw material flow would be 1 341 178 m³.

By subtracting firewood from harvesting by all owners (2 516 094 m³), 16 391 873 m³ of wood was obtained and after deduction of export and addition of import, the basic volume of delivered wood for processing in the Czech Republic was obtained, which was 12 634 216 m³ without bark. Therefore, 12 900 932 m³ of wood without bark and 1 341 178 m³ of bark enter the consumption without firewood. However, it is necessary to exclude or adopt a statement on the area utilization of firewood outside industrial processing. Residues and woodchips in the amount of 1.9 million m³ (CSO) are other input items.

To summarize, the final inputs were 12.9 million m³ of wood, 1.3 million m³ of bark, and 1.9 million m³ of biomass (see Table 2).

Method of reverse determination of roundwood input for processing

A reverse approach was applied to create the industrial wood flow in the primary production (Table 3). This principle requires creating a database of roundwood processors and their typological orientation of the prevailing production and applied technologies. All this information is being identified, sustained and updated over the long term by the authors. The data on wood sources is used as an input for modelling the flow of wood at the level of gross aggregates. Table 3 contains production values from the company data, calculated for the wood consumption in the mutual cascade. By the model limitation, the application of the average production prices is necessary to determine the physical volume of production divided into main and secondary production so that the total sales are in relation to the structure of sales of products, materials and own consumption.

This method requires a detailed analysis of the economic values related to the transformation of the purchased material into the product. When applying this method, it is possible to express the wood volume necessary for processing with a defined inaccuracy measure and determine the deviation from wood production data.

The identified primary processing segments, according to the wood flow analysis, are: wood impregnation, coniferous roundwood (SW), deciduous roundwood, veneer, coniferous plywood, deciduous plywood, OSB boards, chipboards (DTD), MDF (in joint production with DTD and coniferous SW), pulp, energy production. These primary processing segments are key segments of the forest industry and the roundwood enters in various products. In terms of the total volume, there are excluded primary processing segments of the furniture industry (apart from the veneer) and wood construction from the saw logs, since it is very difficult to identify the roundwood consumption and it presents only a small part of the total wood consumption.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of input data showed that the official data on wood sources in the Czech Republic are incomplete and inaccurate. Therefore, they do not allow their application to the wood flow without additional calculations and further investigation of the wood consumption in the energy segment, both in

Table 3. Industrial wood flow in the primary production in 2016

Wood consumption (m ³)		Input ratio	Produced vol.	Industrial wood flow in primary production – basic model							
13 724 007		88%	12 064 932 m ³	unlocated material			production				
Consumption (m ³)	deficit/plus	material	production	primary production	dry up	chips	sawdust	loss	bark	secondary production	total with-out bark
				7 678 500	190 118	2 003 303	-113 540	365 793	1 012 641	18 649	7 948 276
Bark	900 000										
recycl	440 000										
sawdust	1 465 380										
Chips	1 590 000										
wood	-823 075	412 403 (m ³)	12 064 932 (m ³)	material balance (%)	product						
		processing		55	sawnwood						
		sawnwood production		2	dry-up						
		coniferous wood		23	woodchips						
				15	sawdust & cuts						
				2	loss						
				8	bark						
				53	sawnwood						
				3	dry-up						
				23	woodchips						
				18	sawdust & cuts						
				3	loss						
				8	bark						
				90	sawnwood						
				2	dry-up						
				3	woodchips						
				2	loss						
				2	bark						
				55	veneer						
				8	dry up						
				9	residues products						
				20	woodchips						
				5	sawdust						
				3	loss						
				7	bark						
				41	veneer						
				6	dry up						
				4	residues products						
				38	woodchips						
				7	sawdust						
				4	loss						
				7	bark						
				41	veneer						
				6	dry up						
				4	residues products						
				38	woodchips						
				7	sawdust						
				4	loss						
				7	bark						

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Table 3 to be continued

Wood consumption (m ³)		Input ratio	Produced vol.	Industrial wood flow in primary production – basic model									
13 724 007		88%	12 064 932 m ³	unlocated material					production				
Consumption (m ³)	deficit/plus	412 403 (m ³)	12 064 932 (m ³)	material balance (%)	primary production	dry up	chips	sawdust	loss	bark	secondary production	total with-out bark	
					7 678 500	190 118	2 003 303	1 351 840	365 793	112 641	18 649		
wood	-823 075 (m ³)				48 000								
chips	12 900 932	processing	12 064 932	49	48 000								
sawdust	97 959			7		6 857							
recycl	97 959	veneers		11			23 510	4 858	3 918	6 857	10 776	97 959	
Bark	958 677			24									
	958 677			5									
	958 677			4									
	958 677			7									
	958 677			62	595 000	316 694		38 387	9 597	47 914		959 677	
	59 180			33									
	149 180			4									
	149 180			1									
	149 180			1									
	149 180			9									
	59 180			61	91 000	55 197		1 492	1 492	4 143		149 180	
	59 180			37									
	149 180			1									
	149 180			1									
	149 180			7									
	3 340 525			4.85	946 500				167 026	233 837		946 500	
	4 510 525			5									
	4 510 525			7									
	634 615			65	1 030 000	534 015		15 846	4 754	44 423		1 584 615	
	634 615			33.7									
	1 584 615			1.00									
	1 584 615			0.30									
	1 584 615			7									
	0			2.35	332 000				7 022			332 000	
	780 200			0.90									
	780 200												

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