

Preface

Wood is one of the most preferred materials in the human history. Primarily, a man used it to produce heat, then to make tools and weapons, to build dwellings, to manufacture furniture and paper. Nowadays, thank to modern trends in biochemical exploitation of wood, people also use it to produce various chemicals, materials or fuels.

In the conditions of Central Europe, wood is an important renewable raw material, which is relatively abundant. We say relatively, because the unreasonable extensive management, in the context of ongoing climate changes, may easily lead to the unbalance of ecosystems and the situation can be changed quickly and dramatically.

There are different ways of wood processing and they should always take into account effective utilization of raw materials considering environmental and economic conditions, as well as society needs. The choice of technological procedure depends mainly on a manufactured product, as well as the level and availability of production technology.

Practical and effective wood processing necessitates good knowledge of properties of wood and wooden products, as well as auxiliary materials, machine equipment and production economy. Wood processing combines mechanical, chemical and biological procedures profiting from scientific relations of chemistry, physics, mathematics and information technology.

The submitted collection of selected articles from various areas of wood processing - chemical processing of wood and plant biomass, processes for the production of broadcast materials, hydrothermal processes and environmental issues, shows a varied range of possibilities in the exploitation and processing of wood and their interdependence.

The publication should serve as inspiration for science, research, education and practice for finding the comprehensive approach to tackle the issue. The unilateral approach often tempts to distort the perception of such complex issues as efficient exploitation of wood. Multilateral understanding of the issues can contribute to the discovery and implementation of modern original practices in the processing of wood.

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