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Moderators :

Alejandro Martínez Meier
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LIA FORESTIA
web seminars round
2022

#1

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS CHALLENGING FOREST RESEARCH

ABSTRACT :

All over the world trees and forest ecosystem are threatened by the fast-ongoing climate change. Forest scientists are questioned by forest owners, managers, users and all kind of beneficiaries of forest ecosystem services. They are urged to imagine, test, propose and implement efficient adaptation solutions, i.e. human actions aiming at adjusting the forest ecosystems to the new climate conditions. But there is a large incertitude associated to the global warming: how much temperature is going to increase? How long is it going to increase and when will it stabilize? What will be the final temperature level (if any)?

How to manage the major discrepancy between the very long term of forest biology and forest planning and management, and the speed of climate change associated to large uncertainties in climate prediction? Action is urgent, because declines, diebacks and other signs of maladaptation are showing up more and more in all regions of the world, under all types of climate, and for all kind of forest ecosystems: there is no time left, we should act now. The objective of this presentation is to review and discuss how climate change is challenging forest scientists and forest research, and what could be the priority actions to take.

Short Curriculum Vitae : PR is a senior Research Director at INRAE Val de Loire, Orléans, France. He studies adaptation of forest trees to climate in natural and artificial forest tree populations. His investigations of evolutionary adaptation and adaptive phenotypic plasticity are based essentially on annual rings and wood formation studies. He is also co-director (with A. Martinez-Meier of INTA, Argentina) of the International Associated Laboratory between INRAE, France, INTA, Argentina and University of Huanta, Peru, FORESTIA. He is a Scientific Officer of the INRAE International Relationships for Latin America, and since 2020, in charge of the International Priority Program "Adaptation of forests and agroforests to climate change". Finally, he is an elected member of the INRAE scientific council.

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