

UNDER AIRPLANE WINGS STRETCHES THE GREEN PLAIN OF A PARMA

Parma means taiga in the Komi language

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The Komi Republic is situated in the extreme northeast of the European part of the Russian Federation, within the borders of the Pechora and Mezen-Vycheгда Lowlands, Middle and Southern Timan, western slopes of the Ural Mountains (Northern, pre-Polar and Polar Urals). The Republic stretches from Northern Uvaly in the south to Pay-Khoya in the northeast, and from the Pinega and Mezen rivers in the west to the watershed of the Pechora and Ob river basins extending along the Ural ridge in the east.

In the west and northwest, Komi borders the Arkhangelsk region and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug; Yamalo-Nenets and Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrugs of the Tyumen region in the east; Sverdlovsk region in the southeast; the Perm region in the south and the Kirov region in the southwest. The total length of the borders of the Republic are 4415 km. The area of the Komi territory is 416.8 thousand km². Forests occupy 72.7% of the Komi land area.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TIMBER COMPLEX OF THE KOMI REPUBLIC

The timber complex, including logging, wood-processing, paper and pulp, is considered the second most important industry after fuel and energy (timber production accounted for 25% of the total production volume in 2004). Production growth was supported by wood-processing, and pulp and paper industries.

The timber complex of the Republic is generally at a growing stage (in 6 months of 2005 production volume distribution remained at the level of the previous year). According to the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic, volume indices of large and medium enterprises at all logging operation phases were lower in the first six months of 2005 than in 2004. Forest, wood-processing, and pulp-and-paper companies in Komi increased their production volume from 4.1% – up to 3 million 330 thousand m² in the

be carried out by ecologists and experts of the Directorate of the Federal Supervision Service in Nature Management (Rosprirodnadzor) in cooperation with specialists of the close joint-stock company "Giprobum-Engineering." Public hearings on the project were held in September 2005. According to Valentin Brovkin, Head of the Timber Department of the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic, financing of the project on investment substantiation will be allocated from the Republican budget. "The introduction of such projects in Komi gives a powerful incentive to the development of timber and all the other industries of the Republic," V. Brovkin said.

Construction of the pulp mill in the Udora region will enable the involvement of 3.2 million m³ of unused raw wood material. To raise the chemical treatment of surplus small-scale timber, the project is considering the construction of a plant for market sulfate bleached pulp production (capacity – 500 thousand tons per year). The aggregate value of the project stands for \$876.5 million. The construction deadline is 3.5–4.5 years. This project was elaborated by the close joint-stock company "Gazprombum" with participation of Jaakko Poyry Consulting (Finland). General costs of the project's development reached 5.8 million RUR and were allocated by the Republican budget. V. Brovkin thinks that the Udora pulp mill project will get investors shortly. "Project realization will enable an increase in capacities of the processing of small-scale and low-grade timber from 7 up to 12–13 million m³ per year, which, in turn,

makes a contribution to the development of the timber industry of the Komi Republic." The investment program of the Syktyvkar Plywood Plant for 2005 includes the priority investment projects. First is the construction of an annex to the storehouse of finished products and veneer drying line (deadline – October, 2005). Second, reconstruction of the wood-particle board shop, planned for September, and construction of a boiler-house for the utilization of wood waste, with a productive capacity of 15 MW in November 2005. The total investment amount is over 460 million RUR. The company with limited liability "Syktyvkar Tissue Group" will implement the project "Modernization and expansion of the production of high-quality hygiene and sanitary paper." Generally it is expected to increase the total production volume up to 46 thousand tons of base paper for hygiene and sanitary goods per year. The value of the project is 544.6 million RUR. "The Komi government will support such projects, since along with the construction of new plants and opening new working positions they increase returns to the Republican and local budgets," states Ivan Pozdeev, Deputy Head of the Komi Republic. In the Noshul village of the Priluzsky Region of the Komi Republic the company "Algir Pelltes" (Moscow) started a project "Construction of a plant producing fuel pellets from logging waste," which is directed toward the liquidation of logging waste, reduction of costs on heat energy by using biological fuel and the utilization of low-quality timber. The aggregate value of this project amounts to 77 million RUR. Now that the design estimates have been approved, foundation building, and the mounting of production units and equipment are being carried out. "Investments in board production could increase the volume of timber resources involved," considers the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic. Experts think that because of deficient financing the projects are being slowly implemented. At present, an active search for potential investors in the construction projects is being held.

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*** The article contains information of the Komiinform Agency, Territorial Agency of the Federal Service of State Statistics for the Komi Republic, Ministry of Economic Development of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic, Open Joint-Stock Company "Mondi Business Paper–Syktyvkar".

Sawmilling facilities

