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Submission for Draft New Forestry Programme 2014-2020

To whom it may concern:

This document supplements our previous submission dated 23/09/2014

As the main plant supplier to the private afforestation scheme we feel the urgent need to comment on the following two points from the Genetic Reproductive Material section within the draft.

5.10 : Forest Environment and Climate Services: Forest Genetic Reproductive Material.

5.10.2 Scheme Details

b) “Establishment of new production areas such as seed orchards including (broadleaf and conifer)”

We need a steering group, appointed by the minister, to include all the stakeholders i.e. Nursery Growers, Foresters, Timber processors, etc. The purpose of this group would be to examine all the evidence and to make an informed and objective decision on the material we should use to stock our forests. One of the tasks of this group could be to look at the possibility of setting up a group similar to the Sitka Spruce Breeding Co-op in the UK.

5.1.3.4 Objectives

“Increase average yield class by 1 yield class, based on the use of superior growing stock planted on better quality land (Improved Washington Provenance)”

In the absence of scientific evidence to support this, the reference to Improved Washington Provenance should be removed and be replaced by...

“REF : 5.1.3.4 Increase average yield class by 1 yield class, based on the use of superior growing stock planted on better quality land (Best available material)”

It should be noted that for the proposed six year program, three years of the plant supply are already in production on the Nurseries.