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DRAUGHT ANIMAL TRAINING

Most small-scale saw-millers depend heavily on trucks to transport their timber to a point of sale. And the idea of using draught animals to transport these loads is very new. But FORCERT is organising a draught animal training workshop for 12 participants from 6 producer members around the country.

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) will run the training programme at its Erap station, just is outside Lae. This is the first of the many that FORCERT hopes to organise and with this first one scheduled for the 5th November, running for a total of 4 weeks.

‘The training will include both the theory and practical components of handling draught animals, such as buffaloes’ said Cosmas Makamet, Manager (Trainee), FORCERT.

‘The training workshop will look at techniques of taming, feeding and the health of the draught animals. The participants will also be shown how to use ploughs and trailers and will take home the animals they have been training with’, said Mr. Makamet.

He said that apart of the draught animals the participants would also be given also be given trailers. He stated that the trailers have not been made, but will be constructed for FORCERT using a design from the PNG Eco-forestry Programme, with a few improvements

‘The trailers will be made a little longer to fit longer sizes of timber and also stronger at the base where it had collapses in the past due to weight’, said Cosmas.

He said the training workshop is aimed at using appropriate technology in the transportation of timber products from the forests. And FORCERT is very interested in looking at draught animals as an easier means of transporting timber because of the high cost of motor vehicles.

WHAT IS THE IFRTD

The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) is a global network of individuals and organisations working together towards improved access, mobility and economic opportunity for poor communities in developing countries.

At the heart of IFRTD is a clear understanding of the sort of world its members would like to see, how they can work towards that goals. IFRTD is a Southern-driven global network of individuals and organizations. Whose strength lies in the collaborative use of our collective knowledge, skills and interests.

IFRTD is committed to the decentralization of decision-making and implementation. It strives to provide all members with equal opportunities to participate in the activities of the network and take ownership of the network.

IFRTD freely shares knowledge and information to promote change in a multi-disciplinary, cross-regional, multi-lingual way.

IFRTD is committed to disseminating information to the widest possible audience using both print and electronic media.

Membership of IFRTD will be open to all those who share our vision. Members will have the right to engage in the Forum in a non-hierarchical, democratic and participatory manner.

IFRTD strives to provide all members with equal opportunities to participate in the activities of the network. It encourages members to take ownership of the network and participate in decision-making processes.

For more information on IFRTD go to they web site at: www.ifrtd.org/new/index.htm