

Forest

Knowledge

Know-how

METLA

Well-being

Legislation regulating ABS to FGR, a case study from the Nordic Region

Egbert Beuker

Project information

- > **Funding body:** Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- > **Duration:** 2009 - 2010
- > **Budget:** 100 600 Euros, 70 000 from NCM
- > **Institutions involved:**
 - > **1. NordGen**
 - > Sweden – Henrik Hallingbäck (Sanna Black-Samuelsson)
 - > Finland – Mari Rusanen
 - > Denmark – Ditte Olrik (Gunnar F. Proschowski)
 - > Norway – Tore Skrøppa, Øyvind M. Edvardsen, Tor Myking
 - > **2. Fr. Nansen Institute**
 - > Morten W. Tvedt

Background

- The Nordic region is characterised by a simple and non-bureaucratic exchange of FRM.
- Is this regime at stake??
- The Nordic Ministerial declaration (2003) (Kalmar declaration) wished a project to clarify the issue.

Present situation as regards access and rights to FGR in the individual Nordic countries

	Denmark	Finland	Sweden	Norway
Free access to the land (Every man's right)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distinction between GR and biological resource?	No	No	No	Yes
Access to seeds/ cones from live trees?	After agreement with land owner	After agreement with land owner	After agreement with land owner	Unrestricted access (theoretically)

Who owns the genes of the forest trees?

- Several countries (Sweden, Finland, Denmark):
The owner of the tree (biological resource)
- Norway: Common property of the Norwegian people

Trees differ from other crop plants

- Long rotation times, up to 100 years
- Extensive gene flow and reproductive capacity
- High genetic diversity compared to other organisms
- Aim of forest tree breeding is generally not to achieve a stable, uniform variety

Characteristics Nordic region

- Few tree species with commercial importance (Norway spruce, Scots pine and silver birch)
- Modest degree of domestication, but use of bred material increasing
- Most tree breeding is governmentally financed, some co-financed by commercial forestry

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Thank you