

Added-value alternatives for wood forest activities in small enterprises. Stingen, A.B.M. (*Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil; andreaberriel@ufpr.br*), Povoá de Mattos, P. (*Embrapa Florestas, Parana, Brazil; povoa@cnpf.embrapa.br*).

A serious problem that increases rural emigration is related to the degraded productive structure of the rural communities. There is a continuous search for economical sustainability of small- and medium properties, leading to improvement of rural communities. According to many specialists forest activities can be a contribution to minimize poverty and to improve the quality of life of rural communities. The future tendency will be to increase, rapidly, the transformation of high value-added wood products. In the current research, a project for a modular wood house construction was developed to use wood from forest plantations. This work aims to add value to the activity of forest exploitation through primary mechanical processing, using a portable sawmill. The modular house project shows that by simple project decisions, it is possible to improve the performance and durability of renewable materials. In addition, there are alternatives for mechanical processing of small wood pieces. Furniture projects, including details of construction, are presented as alternatives for small sawmills that do not have sophisticated tools and high technology. Furthermore, local talent could be stimulated to create furniture projects and manuals, as an alternative to professional training of young people from rural communities.