

### **Why Wood Should be a Priority in Funding?**

Wood is first and foremost a renewable resource that we almost all use on a daily basis, no matter what country we come from, what country we reside in, and independent of wealth or social status. For centuries wood has been an integral part of our homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, and lives. Wood and products derived from wood are found in all aspects of our life such as structural panels in our homes to preservatives and flavorings in the food we eat. So why fund the research of wood?

- Because it is the best building material and more efficient, affordable and durable structures will be required to house the world's growing population. Wood is the best raw material for these structures of the future; however, new wood based systems and materials will be required to take full advantage of wood's advantages: efficient, affordable and ubiquitous.
- Because it is the biomass resource best suited to the biorefinery concept: dense, durable, existing infrastructure and co-product process and markets. Established wood processing operations, which make efficient use of trees to produce materials and energy, are a good example and starting point for the biorefinery. To make the next generation, a wood-based biorefinery is an efficient and effective business proposition, but new wood processing technologies are needed that produce high-value materials, chemicals and fuels.
- Because forests are important. Utilization— rather than preservation - is the best way to provide an incentive to maintain forests and the many benefits they provide. In addition, forest products themselves are a benefit to our environment because they substitute for non-renewable resources. The benefits of current and future wood products to sustainable forests, healthy societies and a good environment need to be documented so that wise decisions can be made.

While many believe that all of the information about wood has been known for decades, wood and the resource that it comes from is a dynamic material. Properties change depending on where and how it is grown, in turn the properties of the products we produce from wood change. There are many uses of wood that have not even been explored for the betterment of the World, without future funding sustainable, renewable, and efficient opportunities may be missed.