

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0959-6526(19)31563-X

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.05.045>

Reference: JCLP 16810

To appear in: *Journal of Cleaner Production*

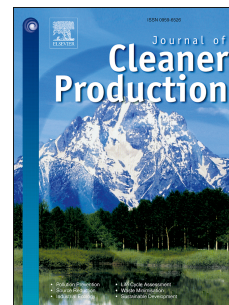
Received Date: 3 October 2018

Revised Date: 24 April 2019

Accepted Date: 5 May 2019

Please cite this article as: Rahman A, Khanam T, Pelkonen P, Is stump harvesting for bioenergy production socially acceptable in Finland?, *Journal of Cleaner Production* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.05.045>.

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Is stump harvesting for bioenergy production socially acceptable in Finland?

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Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank Fortum foundation (Grant number 201400229) and Finnish Cultural foundation (Grant Number 22356) for providing the financial support. The author also like to thank Urpo Hassinen, Juha Inka for helping questionnaire survey.

1 **Is stump harvesting for bioenergy production socially acceptable in Finland?**

2

3 **Abstract**

4 Stump wood is used to produce electricity and heat, especially in Finland, where biomass-based
5 energy plays a major role. This study, which aims to investigate the social acceptance of stump
6 harvesting for bioenergy production in Finland, was conducted in two stages: a questionnaire-based
7 study and a subsequent literature-based study. The latter provides information concerning the
8 beneficial or harmful consequences of stump harvesting, and this information could be used to gain
9 support for stump harvesting's use or abandonment by stakeholders of forest utilization. The
10 questionnaire survey was conducted in 2013 at the SILVA fair organised by the Association of
11 Finnish Forestry centre in Joensuu, Finland, and the literature-based study was conducted in 2018.
12 Six social groups were defined: higher administrative, lower administrative, skilled or specialized
13 workers, farm and forestry workers, students, and others. The results of the questionnaire revealed
14 that, although different social groups are highly interested in using stump wood for energy
15 purposes, respondents think that stump harvesting will not be able to raise their incomes.
16 Respondents are also unmotivated, with even forestry workers expressing critical views on the
17 promotion of stump harvesting for energy purposes due to the environmental consequences. The
18 literature-based study revealed that scientific results on stump harvesting are contradictory. It is
19 crucial to involve different social groups and to reflect on their opinions regarding the use of stump
20 wood as a forest management tool and for bioenergy production. As Finland moves toward a
21 bioeconomy, the study of social acceptance of stump harvesting will direct the development of
22 stump harvesting for bioenergy production.

23 **Keywords**

24 Bioenergy, Environment, Social acceptance, Social group

25

26

27 1. Introduction

28 Electricity is vital to improve people's standard of living around the world. There are now diverse
29 technologies and new sources of energy to be utilized in electricity production. In order to avert the
30 devastating effects of climate change, it is necessary to use cleaner technology in generating
31 electricity. Bioenergy plays a role in securing energy, stimulating rural progress, and mitigating
32 climate change (Acosta-Michlik et al., 2011). Woody biomass from forests has become an
33 important source of bioenergy in many European countries, especially in Finland and Sweden.
34 Using tree stumps for energy purposes is one of the interesting sources of bioenergy. Finland has
35 remarkable forest resources, and logging residues together with wood wastes from wood-processing
36 industries constitute the main source of bioenergy. Usually, slash and stump are used for burning in
37 combined heat and power (CHP) plants to produce electricity. Because of the high calorific value of
38 stump wood (Eriksson and Gustavsson, 2008), the production of bioenergy from stump would be
39 attractive. UPM-Kymmene, a Finnish corporation, began using stump wood commercially for
40 energy purposes in Finland in 2001 (Hakkila, 2004). Stump harvesting can increase wood fuel
41 production, improve site preparation, and reduce root rot (*Heterobasidion*) (Walmsley and Godbold,
42 2009). On the other hand, several studies have shown the adverse effects of stump harvesting on the
43 environment. Major adverse effects include future site productivity reduction, reduced physical
44 structure of soil, and the immediate release of CO₂ into the atmosphere (Walmsley and Godbold,
45 2009; Moffat et al., 2011).

46

47 In Finland, about 60% of forestland is privately owned forests (FFA, 2017), and many stakeholders
48 are involved in the stump harvesting process for bioenergy production. The forestry industry
49 actually consumes a large number of stumps and processes them for CHP plants. Generally, private
50 forest owners demand to attain extra income from stump harvesting. Forest owners also seek to

51 attain a cost-effective process and technology for stump harvesting. On the other hand,
52 Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS) publicly express concern about the
53 effects of stump harvesting on forest biodiversity among other ecological matters (World Wildlife
54 Fund [WWF], 2013). However, there is much discussion and research ongoing in Finland
55 concerning stump harvesting due to its positive and negative impacts.

56

57 In the bioenergy sector, social acceptance is a prerequisite for the conversion of the energy sector
58 from non-renewable to renewable energy (Dwivedi and Alavalapati, 2009). However, the public
59 knows little about bioenergy compared to solar and wind energy (Segon et al., 2012). Social
60 acceptance indicates the fact that a new issue is accepted, or tolerated, by a community. It is a
61 significant issue in the attainment of a renewable energy policy target. Devine-Wright (2007)
62 suggested that public support is essential for utilizing renewable energy technologies. Public
63 opinions are a vital social factor in implementing any new idea (Assefa et al., 2007). Moreover, the
64 social acceptance of bioenergy can increase the growth of the bioenergy market (Magar et al.,
65 2011). In addition, Chin et al. (2014) recommended that neglecting social acceptance can limit
66 biofuel development. There is little academic research on the social acceptance of bioenergy, but it
67 is necessary in order to realize the stakeholders' views about this issue (Raven et al., 2010).
68 Understanding the social acceptance of stump harvesting can contribute to knowledgeable scientific
69 and policy discussions on the demand for stump wood in bioenergy production.

70

71 Finnish forest bioenergy mainly comes from forest residues such as slash, branches, and stumps;
72 therefore, bioenergy production from forest resources requires increased forest logging. Numerous
73 studies have investigated the productivity and environmental consequences of stump harvesting.
74 However, no specific studies have yet focused on the social acceptance of stump harvesting; few

75 have studied the social acceptance of bioenergy or wood-based biomass, but none have studied
76 stump wood-based biomass. Social acceptance is vital for the introduction into the existing forest
77 management system of any changes, whether partial or total, or a new management system. It is
78 essential that researchers identify social reactions to stump harvesting and that policy makers
79 become aware of what people desire in policy development and adaptation. Whether or not the
80 broader society other than scholars, professionals, and policy makers accept the adoption of using
81 stump wood for bioenergy production can become an obstacle to developing appropriate policies.
82 Neglecting the issue of social acceptance could be an obstacle to adopting stump wood use for
83 bioenergy purposes. The main aim of this research is to investigate how Finnish society accepts
84 stump harvesting by both discussing the social acceptance of stump harvesting for bioenergy
85 production and identifying the crucial factors that influence its acceptance. This study will provide
86 updated information about what kind of scientific studies have been undertaken in the recent past to
87 consider the significance of stump harvesting as a bioenergy source.

88

89 **2. Material and methods**

90 This paper is a combination of a report on a social group questionnaire survey conducted in North
91 Karelia, Finland, and a review of existing scientific results on stump harvesting from 2000-2018.
92 The questionnaire survey was conducted among different social groups in 2013, during the SILVA
93 fair in Joensuu, Finland, an open public fair organized by different forestry organizations for people
94 of all social groups in Finland. Thereafter, taking advantage of the survey findings, a separate study
95 with a relevant literature review was carried out on public knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes
96 regarding stump harvesting (see Rahman et al., 2017).

97

98 **2.1 Questionnaire design**

99 The questionnaire comprised 28 questions, including 5 regarding demographic information about
100 each individual respondent. The remaining 23 questions assessed people's views on and acceptance
101 of stump harvesting; 8 of these addressed the social acceptance of stump harvesting. Participants
102 were categorized into six social groups following Näyhä (1977): 1) higher administrative or clerical
103 employees and persons with academic degrees; 2) lower administrative or clerical employees; 3)
104 skilled or specialized workers; 4) farm and forestry workers; 5) students and pupils; and 6) others
105 (Table 1). Each respondent represented a particular social group and was asked about his or her own
106 opinion, as well as questions related to socio-political acceptance (SPA), community acceptance
107 (CA), and market acceptance (MA) of stump harvesting. In total, 166 questionnaires were selected
108 for analysis out of 178 returned questionnaires.

109
110 << Table 1 about here >>

111
112 The mixed format questionnaire (open-ended and closed-ended format) was first formulated in
113 English; a Finnish translation was done by bioenergy experts for the final survey. Answers to the
114 closed-ended questions were evaluated on a five-point Likert scale (1=Strongly agree, 2=Agree,
115 3=No opinion, 4=Disagree, and 5=Strongly disagree). Questions were then categorized into SPA,
116 CA, and MA dimensions. To discern the significance of the results, they were grouped thus:
117 Strongly agree + Agree = Accept, No opinion = No opinion, and Disagree + Strongly disagree =
118 Reject. Before carrying out the final survey, a pilot survey had been conducted with 15 randomly
119 selected respondents; thereafter, the final questionnaire was composed after considering their
120 responses.

121

122 **2.2 Theoretical and analytical framework of the questionnaire**

123 Usually, there are three dimensions of social acceptance, as mentioned above: SPA, CA, and MA.
124 SPA refers to the policies and technologies that are accepted by policy makers, stakeholders, and
125 the public. CA refers to trust, and both procedural and distributional justice. Finally, MA refers to
126 the facts that are accepted by the consumers, investors, and intra-firms. In the social acceptance
127 discussion, we focused more on the positive outcomes of stump harvesting, as the social acceptance
128 of a specific product mostly depends on its positive performance and not on negative outcomes. In
129 Fig. 1, the social acceptance of stump harvesting is represented from the viewpoint of the general
130 public. The utilisation of stump wood for bioenergy question was categorized in all social
131 acceptance dimensions. The promotion of stump harvesting questions were categorized in SPA and
132 CA dimensions. Economic and ecological questions were categorized in the MA dimension.

133
134 << Figure 1 about here >>
135

136 **2.3 Literature-based study**

137 A comprehensive literature review was carried out in 2018. The data was collected by a web search
138 of databases that indexed internationally peer-reviewed journals platform Science Direct, Taylor
139 and Francis Group, etc. *Stump removal* and *stump harvesting* were the keywords used. The
140 literature survey section of this study categorized research articles published since 2000 into two
141 sections: scientifically accepted findings that directly or indirectly agree and those that directly or
142 indirectly do not agree about stump harvesting. The literature review carried out in this study
143 focused on the different challenges and obstacles to stump harvesting in the scientific and social
144 environment. It also focused on the critical thinking skills of the past, ensuring that all socially
145 acceptable issues were incorporated within the survey queries and represented there as possible

146 consequences. Finally, the findings of the literature-based study were linked with the SPA, CA, and
147 MA studies introduced by Wüstenhagen et al. (2007).

148

149 In addition, the study investigated the current situation of stump harvesting in Finland by collecting
150 data form Finnish Natural Resources Institute (Luke) statistics. This type of composite study,
151 comprising a comprehensive literature review combined with survey data, will help us attain an
152 updated and timely understanding of the social acceptance of stump harvesting in contemporary
153 Finland. In addition, the comparative meta-analysis-based study will help identify the gaps in
154 previous studies and measure the efficiency of social acceptance.

155

156 **3. Results and discussion**

157 **3.1 Social group opinions and socio-political acceptance**

158 In the questionnaire, more than 30% of each social group's respondents indicated some sort of
159 social acceptance and willingness to use stumps as a fuel (Fig. 2). Moreover, almost 50% of
160 students and forestry workers showed the highest interest in stump bioenergy, compared with other
161 social group respondents. On the other hand, interestingly, the majority of respondents did not
162 accept that they wanted to promote stump harvesting, except for forestry workers whose opinions
163 were equally divided between acceptance and non-acceptance. It seems that people from different
164 social groups are still confused about stump harvesting. This indicates that there are various
165 uncertainties in long-term policy support of stump harvesting.

166

167

<<Figure 2 about here>>

168

169 Bioenergy from forest resources is a low carbon footprint energy source that has attracted the
170 attention of scientists and policy makers. Bioenergy contributes a major share of renewable energy
171 in EU countries (Scarlat et al., 2015). Renewable energy has reached a 16% share of total energy
172 consumption, and solid biomass contributes 82% to renewable heat production in the EU (EC
173 Progress Report, 2018). The utilisation of renewable energy in the greenhouse heating system has
174 become successful (Esen and Yuksel, 2013). It is projected that by 2020, bioenergy can contribute
175 45% of heat and electricity production in the field of renewable energy sources (Banja et al., 2013).
176 Finnish bioenergy policy has emphasized industrial by-products, and Finland has a long history of
177 getting bioenergy from its forests. In an independent society, public demand and opinion are vital
178 factors influencing policy-making. McCormick (2007) suggested that SPA refers to how people
179 react to government policies, propound solutions for conflicting matters, and make decisions. UPM-
180 Kymmene Company is one of those corporations that is highly interested in adopting and
181 developing stump harvesting technology (UPM, 2018). In Finland, before commercial harvesting of
182 stumps was established, it was anticipated that it would bring in extra fuel wood for bioenergy, and
183 it was also claimed that it would theoretically reduce pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) and root rot
184 (*Heterobasidion*) damage, as these form colonies in stumps and roots. In our study, most higher
185 administrative, skilled workers, and forest workers showed support for the use of stump harvesting
186 to regulate pine weevil and root rot damage. In addition, the government has provided subsidies for
187 stump harvesting (Walmsley and Godbold, 2009) and for energy generation (Hanna et al., 2017).
188 On the other hand, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Finland claimed that stump harvesting is a threat
189 to biodiversity and the forest ecosystem. WWF also claimed that the practice of stump harvesting is
190 a 'Finnish Phenomenon' that is not a sustainable practice for forestry (WWF, 2013).

191

192 **3.2 Social group attitude and stakeholders' acceptance**

193 More than half of skilled workers rejected the idea of pushing politicians to promote stump
194 harvesting; forestry workers were the exception and were again equally divided on this issue. It
195 seems that people whose livelihoods depend on forestry are much more highly motivated to
196 promote stump harvesting than are people of other social groups. Although different social groups
197 have no interest in promoting stump harvesting, most nevertheless accepted that stump harvesting
198 could increase fuel wood production. Most social groups, especially almost 70% of the higher
199 administration group, rejected the proposition that stump harvesting could provide more revenue. In
200 the case of forest management, especially preparation of regeneration sites, all social groups
201 strongly agreed that stump harvesting has a vital role; more than 80% of higher administrative
202 persons, skilled workers, and forestry workers accepted this view. Concerning forest pest
203 management, all social groups, and in particular more than 70% forestry workers, strongly agreed
204 that stump harvesting controls pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) damage and root rot (*Heterobasidion*).
205 It seems that, in our study, most respondents accepted the opinion about stump harvesting, which
206 reflects the MA dimension (Fig. 3). SPA and MA jointly got the highest priority among our
207 respondents with regard to the stump harvesting issue.

208

209 <<Figure 3 about here>>

210

211 Finland might have good opportunities to develop new sources of forest bioenergy, for example,
212 from short rotation trees and stump removal. However, the social acceptance of these sources is
213 rather low. Our questionnaire showed that higher administrators, skilled workers, and students
214 showed the least interest in pushing politicians to promote stump harvesting, although stump
215 harvesting is allowed in Finland for bioenergy production with some guidelines (Koistinen, 2016).
216 In general, government policies and support programs seem to be essential for bioenergy use

217 (Scarlat and Dallemand, 2011). The acceptance of stump harvesting by the media, ENGOs, forest
218 companies, and the government is essential in the context of the socio-political development of
219 acceptance. Our study revealed that different social groups highly appreciated stump harvesting
220 because of its use in promoting forest health through site preparation and both pine weevil and root
221 rot damage control.

222

223 **3.3 Scientific acceptance of stump harvesting**

224 It is to be understood that the different dimensions of social acceptance are not always confined
225 within a single boundary. They might spread into other dimensions or might overlap with the other
226 dimensions. This may be assessed variously, according to the researcher's judgments. Nevertheless,
227 this study made an attempt to provide a coherent account of the corresponding dimensions of the
228 stump harvesting social acceptance study (Table 2).

229

230 Regarding the MA dimension, it has been reported that stump wood chips have less moisture
231 (Hakkila and Aarniala, 2004) and a quite uniform structure (Ala-fossi et al., 2007), which is
232 important for market value. The survival rate of seedlings is quite prominent by stump and slash
233 harvesting (Karlsson and Tamminen, 2013). For proper market management, harvested stump
234 should be kept in a single pile rather than multiple piles (Rahman et al., 2015). On the other hand,
235 several studies have provided negative supporting statements for stump harvesting in terms of the
236 MA dimension. One important finding is that stump harvesting can delay the decomposition of
237 coarse roots (Repo et al., 2015) and affect the growth of fungi, lichen, and moss species (Kubart et
238 al., 2016).

239

240 Concerning the SPA dimension, it has been asserted that there is no significant difference in carbon
241 balance after stump harvesting in the long run (Hyvönen et al., 2016). In addition, using stump

242 wood instead of fossil fuel has environmental benefits (Ortiz et al., 2016). On the other hand, a
243 previous study found that, in a short period, stump harvesting can affect soil carbon balance (Hope,
244 2007).

245

246 Further, regarding the CA dimension, stump harvesting has been reported to have economic and
247 environmental benefits (Gonçalves da Costa et al., 2017). However, to increase competitiveness,
248 stump needs a higher price than the current price (Walmsley and Godbold, 2009).

249

250 Overall, 31 scientific studies supported stump harvesting, while 27 studies did not support it. In the
251 MA dimension, five scientific articles supported stump harvesting, while eight did not. In the SPA
252 dimension, five scientific articles indicated a positive attitude toward stump harvesting and four
253 articles represented a negative attitude. In addition, in the CA dimension, two articles showed a
254 positive attitude, while no article represented a negative attitude. However, many of these articles
255 examined more than one dimension together: market and community acceptance (MA + CA),
256 market and socio-political acceptance (MA + SPA), community and socio-political acceptance (CA
257 + SPA), or community, socio-political, and market acceptance (CA + SPA + MA). Most scientific
258 articles explored MA and SPA dimensions together, of which, thirteen articles represented a
259 positive attitude toward stump harvesting, while seventeen articles showed a negative attitude. Our
260 study thus showed that scientific research results are diverse and even contradictory. As shown in
261 Table 2, it seems that acceptance and rejection of stump harvesting is almost equally divided among
262 the scientific community.

263

264

<<Table 2 about here>>

265

266 **3.4 Status of stump harvesting**

267 Several policy instruments support Finland's forest-based bioenergy (Makkonen et al., 2015).
268 Because of such support, Finnish bioenergy production increased quickly in the past decades.
269 Stump wood for bioenergy production has also become popular in recent years. However, stump
270 harvesting is decreasing since 2013. In fact, stump removal has received much media attention in
271 Finland. A national daily newspaper published an article which stated that it is a sin to burn stump
272 (Helsingin Sanomat, 3 December 2010). In addition, stakeholders with sufficient knowledge have a
273 critical view of stump harvesting (Rahman et al., 2017). Stakeholders' opinions can be different as
274 per their interest, although they have access to the same scientific publications (Peters et al., 2015).
275 In addition, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Forest
276 Stewardship Council (FSC) have allowed stump extraction in Finland (PEFC, 2014; FSC, 2011). To
277 ensure sustainable practice, Finland has established guidelines for stump harvesting (Koistinen et
278 al., 2016).

279

280 Further, the use of commercial stump chips for CHP plants gradually rose until 2013 (Fig. 4). The
281 highest recorded consumption of forest chips by Finnish CHP plants was in 2016, around 7.4
282 million solid cubic meters that included 0.8 million cubic meters stump wood chips (Luke Statistics,
283 2017).

284

285 Henrik (2014) mentioned that Stora-Enso closed their program to use stump wood for their
286 bioenergy plant, and UPM-Kymmene Company decided to stop increasing the supply of stump
287 wood, although they will continue burning stump wood for bioenergy production. This might be an
288 indication of the poor market development of stump wood-based bioenergy observed during the last
289 few years, especially after 2013. Innovators in the field need to identify new technologies for stump

290 harvesting. Due to the poor market development, there is a lack of research interest in the
291 technology development of stump harvesting.

292

293

<< Figure 4 about here >>

294

295 **3.5 Community acceptance of stump harvesting for bioenergy production**

296 CA refers to the acceptance of stump harvesting for bioenergy production by the local residents,
297 local authorities, and other local stakeholders. Although numerous opinion-based studies have
298 reported that public support exists for renewable energy production, many projects face local
299 resistance during the implementation phase (Devine-Wright, 2009). The outcome of any project can
300 be accepted by the community if there is fairness (Gross, 2007). It is also important that local
301 people trust outside investors (Huijts et al., 2007). Mercer-Mapstone et al. (2018) studied the quality
302 of company-community relationship with trust, acceptance, and fairness. In the case of stump
303 harvesting, *stakeholder satisfaction* is a vital factor in gaining a continuous supply of stump wood.
304 In our study, it was found that respondents of different social groups are still confused about the
305 issue, and large-scale stump harvesting projects will most likely face obstacles. It seems that
306 although communities are positive about stump harvesting, they are also concerned about
307 environmental issues. Panoutsou (2008) supported the findings of our study, indicating that people
308 usually are not against bioenergy but are influenced in their decision-making by environmental
309 uncertainties. Many people do not want to demonstrate their views against bioenergy, in general, as
310 it contributes to the mitigation of climate change. For instance, respondents in this study from an
311 administration background showed less interest to promote stump harvesting. Recently, the
312 *European Academies* suggested that the carbon stock of forests can be damaged by excessive forest
313 energy production, and that in the area of sustainable bioenergy production, it is indispensable to
314 consider forest carbon stocking (European Academies' Science Advisory Council [EASAC], 2017).

315 Moreover, Khanam et al. (2017) showed that experts on energy sector response believe that EU
316 energy policy is not enough to reduce greenhouse gases.

317

318 According to Wright and Reid (2011), public opinion concerning bioenergy is influenced by the
319 media. Thus, it is essential that the media provide a balanced account of both positive and negative
320 features of stump harvesting and society's beliefs regarding it. Sometimes, less scientifically
321 relevant issues become important in the media and society, and this can play a significant role in the
322 bioenergy sector (ECN, 2008). It is critical that researchers provide Finnish society with
323 scientifically demonstrated results about both the environmental consequences and the
324 environmental benefits of stump harvesting. From a community's point of view, people are not
325 completely against stump harvesting. They seem to expect more research on environmental issues
326 and creative solutions of high-quality technology to increase stump harvesting. A poor readiness to
327 promote stump harvesting indicates that different social groups are aware of the negative effects of
328 stump harvesting.

329

330 **3.6 Market acceptance of stump harvesting for bioenergy production**

331 MA refers to the adoption of a new process or technology in a market. The MA of bioenergy from
332 stumps is highly dependent on the performance of individual innovators and scientists, companies,
333 and investors on one hand and on individual customer awareness and their adoption processes on
334 the other. The MA of stump harvesting depends on consumer and producer acceptance. The
335 technical advantage of stump harvesting is that stump wood has high-energy content (Eriksson and
336 Gustavsson, 2008). Stump wood, however, contains many impurities that may affect combustion
337 cylinders in CHP plants. Improved technologies for reducing the impurities of stump wood can
338 increase the demand for stump harvesting.

339

340 People should be aware of and provided with relevant and understandable information and
341 knowledge for enhancing acceptance to use a new bioenergy source. Contradictory and confusing
342 research outcomes do not support any preconditions for changes of attitude. The willingness of
343 corporations to invest in stump harvesting is significant for MA. Big forest companies can invest in
344 stump harvesting if they find it profitable. The government's long-term subsidies have an important
345 role to play in improving the stump-harvesting process and its social acceptance. A product can
346 easily enter the market if consumers accept it widely (Van de Velde, 2009). A previous study in
347 China showed that nuclear power plants gained social acceptance due to economic growth and
348 market demand (Yuan et al., 2017). The media and NGOs have a pivotal role to play in spreading
349 information throughout society to broaden the scope of public environmental concern.

350

351 The present study revealed that respondents of different social groups thought that stump harvesting
352 can increase the production of wood fuel. In addition, our analysis of stump wood chip consumption
353 data showed that consumption peaked in 2013, when our questionnaire survey was conducted.
354 Thereafter, stump wood chip consumption declined for different factors, such as technological
355 obstacles, contradictory scientific results, and confusion about stakeholders' social acceptance.
356 When commercial stump harvesting began in the early 2000s, soil scarification was associated with
357 stump harvesting (Karha, 2012). The combination of stump harvesting and soil scarification was not
358 continued because of poorer planting spots (Rantala et al., 2010). The technology used by
359 corporations in modern stump harvesting has dramatically improved, so it is possible to handle
360 stumps of any diameter, and mobile crushers and forwarders with chippers have made it more
361 profitable than before (NWH, 2007). Forest companies are investing more money into further
362 improving stump harvesting techniques, which is in turn influencing forest owners to allow stump

363 removal in clear-cut areas. Forest companies are significant stakeholders with respect to acceptance
364 of stump harvesting. There is also an ongoing discussion that bioenergy should have ‘satisfactory
365 climate benefits’ and that solid biomass should be included in sustainability criteria (EASAC,
366 2017). This discussion can influence the future industrial use of stump wood for energy.

367

368 **4. Conclusion**

369 The literature review-related findings of our study showed that scientific results are diverse and at
370 times contradictory. Further, a sort of general finding from the questionnaire survey was that people
371 are very much divided into pro- and against-stump harvesting groups. The current situation of
372 stump harvesting is now in an unclear phase owing to different and contradictory scientific research
373 results. This may influence the level of social acceptance of stump harvesting in Finland. As stump
374 wood is a new source of bioenergy and there are multiple uncertainties regarding its continued use
375 in the future, the social acceptance of stump harvesting has received only little attention from
376 scholars. According to our survey and the literature reviewed above, overall, Finland is rather
377 critical about stump harvesting. Acceptance varies clearly between and even within different social
378 groups. This variation is one indicator showing that citizens need more relevant scientific
379 information and knowledge to understand the complexity of biomass, and especially of the stump
380 wood-based energy system. This study’s focus, social acceptance, is not an obstacle to the practice
381 of stump harvesting, but it certainly will help to understand people’s views and future directions of
382 stump harvesting in Finland.

383

384

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Table 1

Respondents of different social group (%)

Social group	Gender			Forest owners			Total Respondents (%)
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Own (%)	Not own (%)	Total (%)	
Higher administrative	49	51	100	66	34	100	32
Lower administrative	54	46	100	75	25	100	7
Skilled or specialized workers	35	65	100	74	26	100	19
Farm and forestry workers	24	76	100	88	12	100	15
Students and pupils	69	31	100	25	75	100	10
Others	57	43	100	69	31	100	17
Total							100

Table 2

Summary table of the literature review on social acceptance of stump harvesting.

Dimensions	Supporting statements and references	Non-supporting statements and references
MA	Dried stump has low moisture content, that leads to high storage life (Hakkila and Aarniala, 2004)	The positive environmental immediate consequence of stump harvesting may deferred as the coarse roots are decomposed slowly (Ågren et al. 2007; Repo et al. 2015)
	Stump chips are more uniform than other type of forest chips (Alafossi et al. 2007)	
	The seedling survival of Scots pine and Norway spruce was higher compared in slash and stump harvest compared to only slash harvest (Karlsson and Tamminen, 2013)	The seedling survival of Scots pine and Norway spruce has no big difference compared in slash and stump harvest compared to only slash harvest (Saksa, 2013; Egnell, 2016)
	If harvested stumps are stored in a large pile rather than scattered, it may decrease the pine weevil (<i>Hylobius abietis</i>) seedling damage (Rahman et al. 2015) Stump harvesting reduce pine weevil larvae and breeding resources (Rahman et al. 2018)	Stump harvesting create difficulties for the growth and survival of the fungi, lichens and moss species as their growth depend on the increasing of stump age (Caruso and Rudolphi 2009; Svensson, 2013; Persson et al. 2013; Kubart et al. 2016)
SPA	Study after 8-13 and 32-39 years revealed no substantial carbon differences between the stumps removed or retained stands (Hyvönen et al. 2016; Jurevics et al. 2016) Stump removal of Norway spruce did not cause soil nutrient and carbon loss significantly (Uri et al. 2015)	Study after 10 years of harvesting found the declining of soil carbon stocks (Hope, 2007)
	It favours the flora species that can survive in the wide disrupted soil structure (Åström et al. 2005) Environmental benefit is achieved instantly when stump using to replace fossil fuel (Ortiz et al. 2016)	Stump harvesting reduces the significant lichen species, unique or uncommon habitats and detriment effect on the deadwood habitat (Caruso et al. 2008) Stump harvesting negatively affect the deadwood-dependent species of the landscape (Ranlund and Victorsson, 2018)

CA	It leads to a source of fuel and income for the forest owners (Saarinen 2006) Stump harvesting represents economic and environmental potential (Gonçalves da Costa et al. 2017)	
MA+CA	Dried stump has high calorific value (Eriksson and Gustavsson 2008)	Stumps need higher prices to be competitive on the bioenergy market (Walmsley and Godbold 2009)
MA+SPA	After stump harvesting, soil disturbance intensify the net N mineralization and reduce green-house gases emissions (Persson et al 2017.)	Soil disturbance decreases the decomposition ratio of the organic matter (Strömgren et al. 2016)
	Compared with non-harvested plots 50% Millipedes decreased in stump-harvested stands (Taylor and Victorsson, 2016).	Stump harvesting effects are severe on the fungi that hosts by stump (Allmér, 2005)
	In coniferous species, 6% soil carbon declines and 8% increase due to trees (stem+branches+top) and stem only harvesting (Johnson and Curtis 2001)	In nutrient-poor soils sites, it leads to reduce soil carbon amount and negatively impacts on the soils (Hope 2007; Zabowski et al.2008; Melin et al. 2009; Eliasson et al. 2013; Mjöfors et al. 2015; Kaarakka et al. 2018)
	leads to increases the quantity of soil mineral (Kardell 2008; Kataja-Aho et al. 2012)	SH substantially disrupt the soil structure and reduce soil nutrient stocks (Eisenbies et al. 2005; Egnell et al. 2007; Kaarakka et al. 2018)
	Stump removal leads to efficiency gains in the site preparation since the site does not need any chemicals to reduce the soil diseases (Asiegbu et al. 2005; Saarinen 2006)	It cannot be the sole technique to pest control as the infested roots may remain in the soil, even after harvesting and infect the new plantations (Wallertz et al. 2006)
	It has potential to lessen root rot damage in the new plantations (Vasaitis et al. 2008; Cleary et al. 2013)	Stumps uprooting might enhance pine weevil infestation that accelerates seedling mortality (Metla, 2008)
	Harvesting of whole-tree reduces soil acidification (Rosenberg and Jacobson 2004)	Soil compaction have a greater negative influence than acidification on the root stability and tree growth (Polomski and Kuhn 2001)
	It favours the growth of natural regeneration plants like pine and birch (Karlsson and Tamminen 2013; Saksa 2013; Egnell 2016)	It disfavors the growth of secondary type species like spruce (Karlsson and Tamminen 2013; Saksa 2013; Egnell 2016)
CA+SPA	Many countries (e.g. Finland, Sweden, France, and Poland are using) are practicing as pests and diseases control method especially for <i>H. annosum</i> infestations (Gibbs et al. 2002; Thor 2002; Paananen and Kalliola 2003; Saarinen 2006)	
CA+SPA+MA	Stump harvesting has no negative consequence on the development of	

	the new plantations (Egnell et al. 2007)	
	It results to increase forest growth (Jurevics et al. 2016)	

MA=Market acceptance; SPA= Socio-political acceptance; CA= Community acceptance; MA+SPA= Market + Socio-political acceptance; CA+SPA= Community acceptance+ Socio-political acceptance; CA+MA= Community acceptance+ Market acceptance and CA+SPA+MA= Community acceptance+ Socio-political acceptance+ Market acceptance

CA= Community acceptance; SPA= Socio-political acceptance;
MA= Market acceptance

I would like to-

1. Use fuels from stumps
2. Promote stump harvesting to friends and family members or in a public hearing (like seminar)
3. Push politician to promote stump harvesting

I think-

4. It increase production of wood fuel
5. Forest owners earn revenue from stump energy
6. Stump harvesting improve site preparation
7. Stump removal reduce pine weevil insect damage to seedlings
8. Stump removal reduce root rot diseases

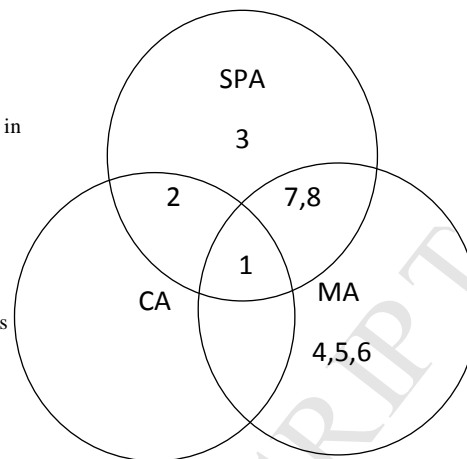
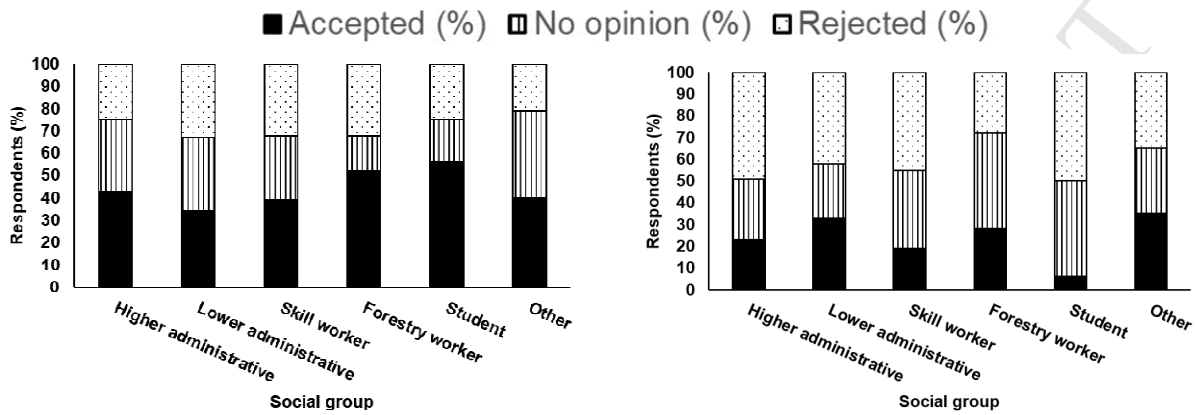
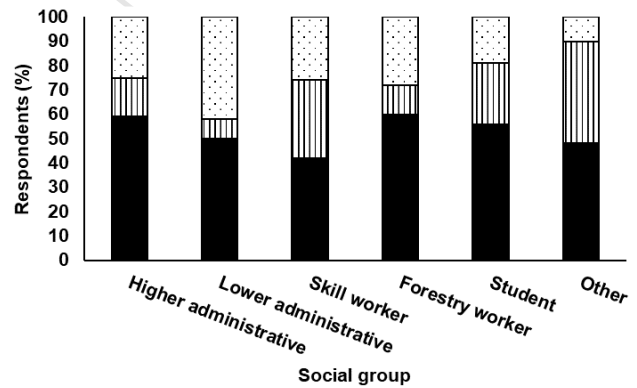
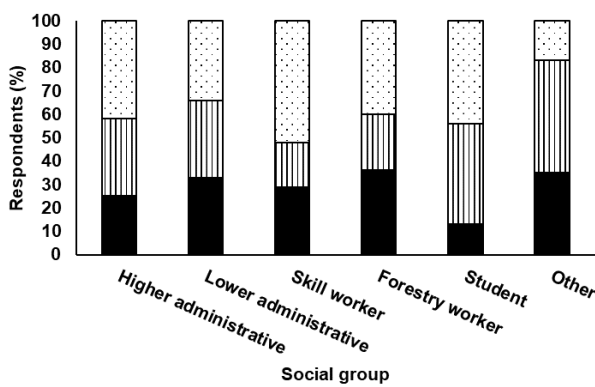


Fig. 1. Social acceptance of energy production from stump harvesting



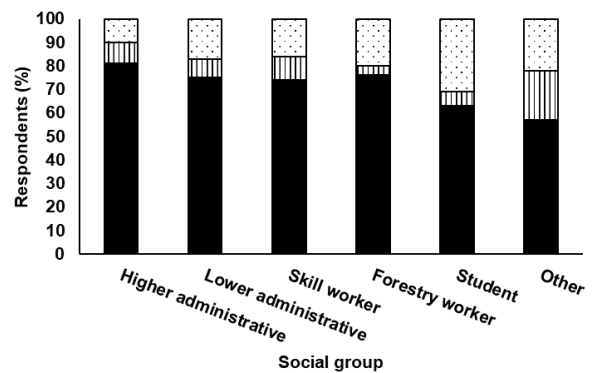
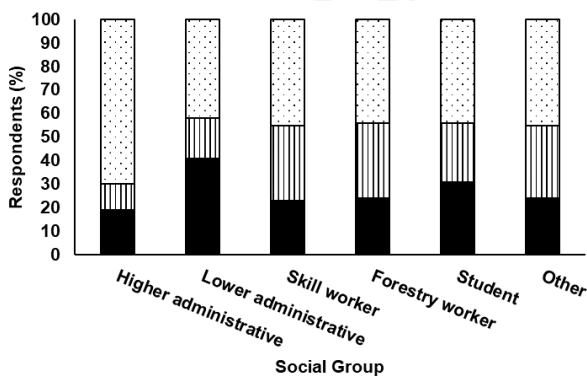
a. Use fuels from stumps(SPA, CA, MA)

b. Promote stump harvesting (SPA, CA)



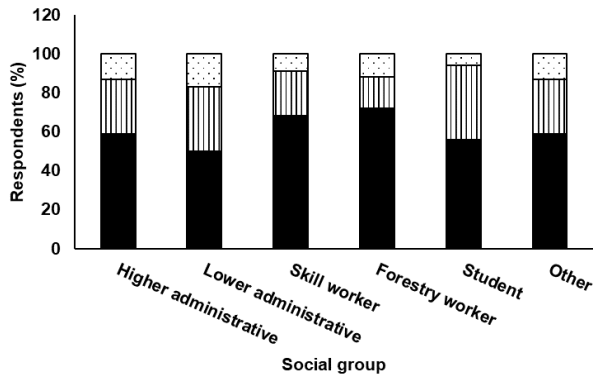
c. Push politician to promote stump harvesting(SPA)

d. It increase production of wood fuel(MA)

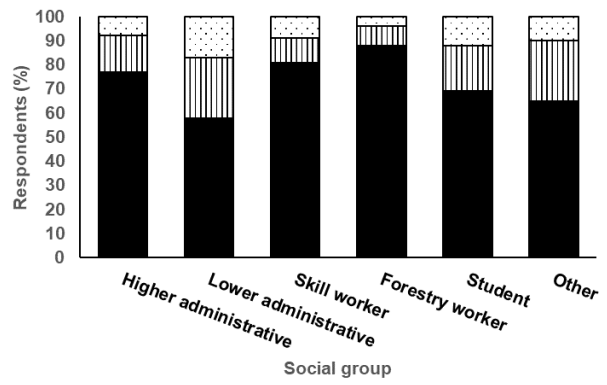


e. It earn revenue (MA)

f. Stump harvesting improve site preparation(MA)



g. It reduce pine weevil insect damage to seedlings (SPA, MA)



h. Stump removal reduce root rot diseases (SPA, MA)

Fig. 2. People's opinion of stump harvesting by different social groups

■ Accepted (%) ▨ No opinion (%) ▩ Rejected (%)

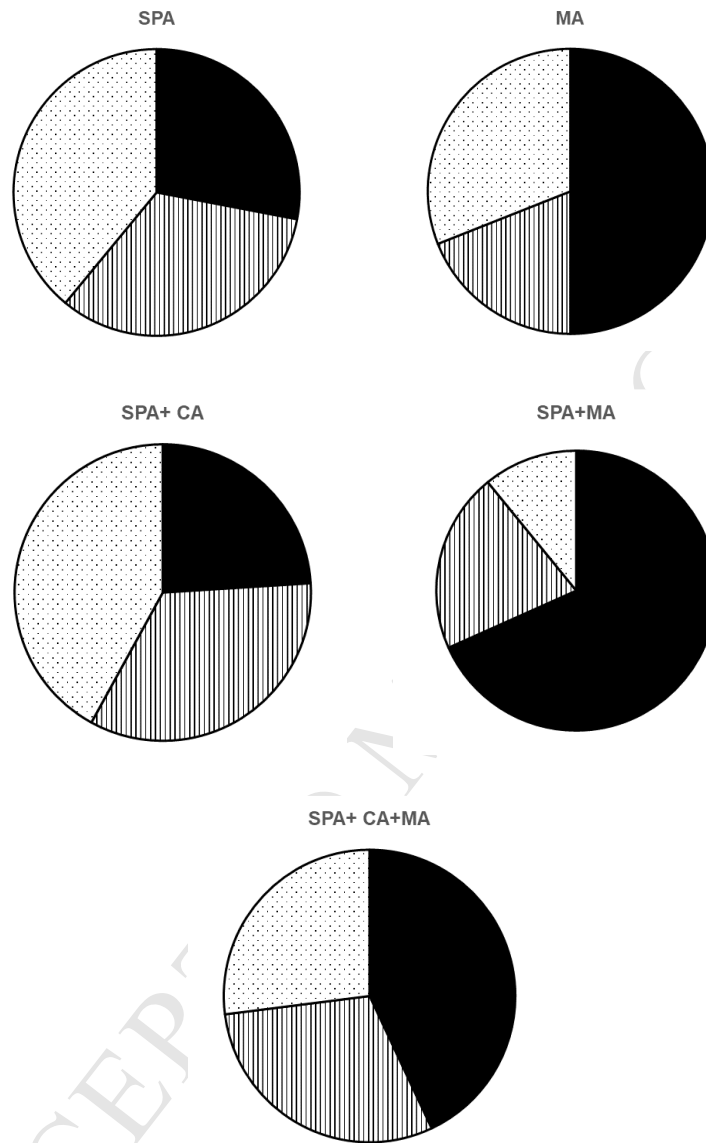


Fig. 3. Respondents' opinion percentages in the context of social acceptances dimensions.

MA=Market acceptance; SPA= Socio-political acceptance; CA= Community acceptance; MA+SPA= Market + Socio-political acceptance; CA+SPA= Community acceptance+Socio-political acceptance; CA+MA=Community acceptance+Market acceptance; and CA+SPA+MA=Community acceptance+Socio-political acceptance+Market acceptance

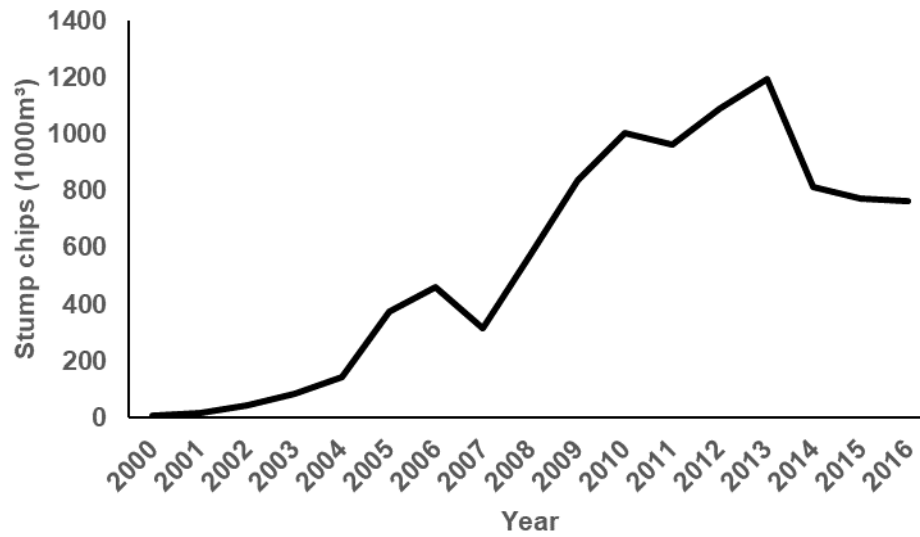


Fig. 4. Stumps chips consumption in heating and power plant in Finland (source – LUKE statistics 2017)