

# ITGA showcase forestry sector in Birr

Approximately 5,000 visitors attended the Irish Forestry, Woodland and Bio energy Show in Birr in May 2011. The success of the event highlighted both the interest in the sector and the emerging economic importance of the forestry and timber industry.

The Irish Timber Growers Association, which hosted the Conference Centre, with funding assistance from Forest Service, were happy to be associated with the show. Universities and research groups showcased the significant economic, environmental and social benefits of forestry in the centre. Walk in displays were hosted by groups which included; The CARBiFOR Project Team from UCD, the COFORD FORECAST Project Team from UCD, the PLANFORBIO Project Team from UCC and TCD, the Irish squirrel and pine martin project from UCG, the Coillte Recreation Team and the Irish Forestry and Forest Products Association and also PEFC Ireland. Presentations were made by the various groups in addition to presentations by Michael MacCarthy, Forest Service on the new EU Regulation No. 995/2010 and Sean

McGinnis, of Ecoplan Forestry gave an introduction to Birr Castle Estate woodlands and their management.

Speaking to the various teams displaying at the ITGA Centre after the show, there was a general consensus it had been a considerable success. The post graduates from the various Universities displaying their projects were happy to explain their findings to the industry and public and were of the opinion that meeting professionals working in the forestry sector had been a valuable experience.

Each visitor to the show was presented upon entering the show grounds with an ITGA Conference brochure listing the Conference programmes for each day and outlining the displays on offer. In addition, *The Irish Farmers Journal* featured a supplement on the show with a full list of exhibitors and site map. The show organiser, David Wilkinson, has been encouraged by the positive feedback from the event and has committed to organising the next show in May 2013. Many of the ITGA conference centre proceedings are available on <http://www.itga.ie/itgaconference.asp>.



Shay McEntee, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry (centre) who launched the Forestry and Bio energy show in Birr Castle Estate with Brendan Lacey, Chairman, Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA), Earl of Rosse, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD, Donal Whelan, Technical Director, ITGA, Denis Shiels, Chairman Birr Town Council and Denis Tierney, Deputy Chairman, Birr Town Council.