

# **Facts about Grenverket**

Grenverket = the Branches Network in Blekinge

The association started as a loose network in 1992, sprung from a series of study-circles for 50 female forest owners. None of the participants in the circles wanted to end the studies, so the leaders had to continue by arranging a series of excursions.

In the first 7 years the network was sponsored by the local forest organisations, such as Forestry Commission, all the local forest companies and Lrf (farmers association)

The loose network was 1999 replaced by a regular association. President ever since the start has been Helene Reiter, vice president is Cecilia Rooth. Both were leaders of the first study-circles, and both started their forestry career in the local forestry school 1972.

The vision of Grenverket is:

Female forest owners should in the same extent as male take interest in their rural heritage and feel that they are able to use and develop their properties.

The aim of Grenverket is:

To fortify and strengthen reliance, self esteem and self-confidence and educational knowledge in all forestry aspects. Women should venture/ dare to take decisions and regard themselves as rural enterprisers.

The activities in Grenverket are:

Study circles, excursions, “forest woman of the year”, participation in all kinds of rural activities, lectures, education of entrepreneurs etcetera.

The results of Grenverket are:

- 90 members, half of them frequently participating in all activities.
- Sisters, widows, single women daring to take over the family property without any male “back up”.
- Wives and daughters enthusiastic sharing forestry decisions and practice side by side with equally enthusiastic men.
- Higher business and silviculture activity in the forest, specially appreciated by the timber buyers in the region.
- The most active women have developed a group of entrepreneurs, planning to work together in different kind of activities in a rural development project.
- All nominations and elected women for the local boards of forest owners association Södra are recruited from Grenverket
- A contribution to development for native women in Ecuador