



Agricultural landscapes dynamic at the North-West of Russia

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The process of reduction of agrolandscapes has taken place some decades in the North-Western European Russia. During 100 last years the area of agricultural lands have reduced in 1,4 times on the Karelian Isthmus. The most part of it had been abandoned after change of State border after of the Second World War.

The processes of overgrowing of the former agricultural lands are studied on the landscapes base. The types of landscapes are distinguished on the base of the morphological relief symptoms, characteristics of the structure rock and the humid regime. Agricultural lands occupy landscapes such as kames, sandy, sandy-loam, clayey plains, sometimes with excess moistening, sandy fluvioglacial plains, loamy morainic plains, mesotrophic and eutrophic peat-bogs.

Four stages can be revealed.

I - (period to 20 years after termination of agricultural use) - grass-herb meadow with unclosed brush

II - (20 - 40) - shrub layer with closed or low-closed canopy and unclosed or low closed small-leaved re-growth

III - (40 - 80) - closed small-leaved forest, sometime including the coniferous trees

IV - predomination of the coniferous on small-leaved trees

Reestablish vegetation successions can be realised by different ways, with different rate, including various trees and ecological groups of species in different landscapes. In the different sites many traits in common are discovered during this processes.

The processes taking place in soil of abandoned agricultural lands are expressed more poorly than in vegetation as soil is more "conservative" element of landscape.

Now most area occupies former agricultural lands, inhering on III stage and presenting itself small-leaved forest.

Over the last decade because of a change in the socio-political situation there has emerged a tendency towards an increase in the area of the cultivated land in the Karelian Isthmus including the secondary development of previously abandoned lands. However, this process is going on spontaneously; there are quite a few cases of the use of woodland valuable in recreational and forestry respects for dacha or country-cottage construction.

From fast change the pattern of ownership on ground is necessary urgent inventory of being available ground resources, including with the purposes of creation of new especially protected territories. It is important to emphasise, that to guards should be subject not only sites so-called 'quot.; untouched quot.; a nature, but also area with different overgrowth succession stages agricultural lands, where biodiversity raises.