

## NOTIFICATION

NO. 2-3/2011-ICFRE/Admin/Corpus Fund(Notification) dated 4/8/2011

### RULE FOR "ICFRE CORPUS FUND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE"

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#### **A. Introduction:**

With a view to attract eminent personalities and researchers to facilitate qualitative enhancement in research and education in the country in the field of Forestry it has been decided to establish Chairs of Excellence (CoE) in ICFRE, the apex R&D organization. To begin with, four Chairs of Excellence are to be established, namely (i) Forest and Climate Change, (ii) Forest Biometrics and Productivity Management, (iii) Biodiversity and Ecology, and (iv) Forest Genetics Resources Management Network (FGRMN).

The CoEs on **Forests & Climate Change, Forest Biometrics & Productivity Management and Biodiversity & Ecology** are to be established at FRI, Deemed University and aim at bringing eminence in forestry research, and facilitate development of academic pool in the long run. The programme is intended to enhance research, education and training capacity of scientists, forestry personnel and students by bringing them in contact with national/international subject specific experts. The brief objectives of creating the chairs are:

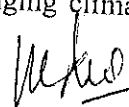
- To bring in high quality academicians and professionals in the field of forestry on a short term basis.
- To create regional, national, and international impact, enhancing the employment avenues for forestry students and young researchers.
- Enhancing the ability of scientists to attract resources.
- Enhancing collaborative research activities.

The fourth Chair of Excellence in FGRMN is to be established at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, and aims at attracting eminent personalities and outstanding researchers for coordinating, integrating and formulating integrated FGR conservation and management strategies of the country. This will also facilitate effective linkages with other national and international organizations to provide much needed impetus to forest tree genetic resource information and research network in the country. The chair will also facilitate education in this field, and assisting in enhancement of local academic pool in the long run.

#### **DETAILS OF CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE**

##### **1. Forest and Climate Change:**

The unique ability of forests to simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, capture and store carbon, and reduce the vulnerability of people and other ecosystems to climate change make them significant in changing climate regime. However, forests are increasingly becoming vulnerable to markedly changing climate



regime as their resilient and adaptive capacity is exceeded. There is an urgent need to understand and assess the vulnerabilities of forests and their adaptation to changing climate in the local context of economic, social, political, and environmental circumstances in order to ensure and maintain the long-term mitigation potential of forests.

The Chair shall develop synergies between ICFRE and other national and international institutes of repute working in the field of climate change and forestry by facilitating, strengthening and developing research networks and collaboration; formulation of research projects and concepts; assisting in the identification of funding resources in the form of scholarships, research funds, exchange visits; capacity building of various stakeholders; exploring employment opportunities; and, dissemination of information in the related field.

## **2. Forest Biometrics and Productivity Management:**


Champion and Seth forest types classification has undergone changes over time due to ecological succession, biotic interference etc. and if we are to know our present forest wealth, its quality and its future, we need to fill up the gaps. The institution of the Chair on forest bio-metrics and productivity management shall go a long way to achieve the above objectives as well as lay foundations for future.

The brief objectives of chair shall be knowing the latest area under the different Forest Types, working out the productive capacity of forests in terms of growth, biomass, round timber and carbon sequestration, preparation of yield and volume tables for important timber and non timber species, determination of site quality indices of different sites in the country, working out the total growing stock of various species in the country, and also working out the increments put up by various species in different agro-climatic zones.

Chairs being qualified experts, shall also conduct lectures, workshops and seminars in their field of study, guide advanced research in their fields, provide pro bono community service, including consulting functions (such as advising government, non-profit organizations and others), teach campus-based or online courses with the help of instructional technology, and train graduate / post graduate students / research scholars.

## **3. Biodiversity and Ecology:-**

India has been recognized as one of the world's top 12 mega biodiversity nations. In flora the country can boast of 45,000 species and accounts for 15 percent of the known world plants. The loss of biological diversity is a global crisis. There is hardly any region on the earth that is not facing ecological catastrophes. It is reported that the current rate of biodiversity loss is the fastest ever. To conserve the rich biodiversity of our diverse ecosystems that are threatened by different anthropogenic stresses, our research endeavors need to be focused towards ecosystem restoration. There is need to increase resilience of ecosystems, understand the factors limiting



succession at each point of its progress and understand the dynamics of native plants and study the factors allowing them to be resistant to most pests and diseases. The visiting Chair "*Biodiversity and Ecology*" is a step in the direction of stabilizing the ecosystems and the ecosystem services.

4. **FGRMN:**

To attract eminent personalities and outstanding researchers for coordinating, integrating and formulating FGR conservation and management strategies of the country, "**Professor of Eminence Chair**" shall be established. The Chair on FGR will help coordinate integrated FGR conservation and management to provide the needed impetus to forest tree genetics resources information and research network in the country. The chair will also facilitate education in the field of management and conservation of FGR as well as assisting in enhancement of local academic pool in the long run.

C. **RULES OF CORPUS FUND**

To facilitate functioning of the Chairs of Excellence (CoE), a corpus fund shall be established in ICFRE. The rules for the Corpus Fund for CoE will be as under:-

1. The ICFRE Corpus Fund for Chairs of Excellence will be in the name of Director General, ICFRE. The final decision with respect to management of Corpus Fund shall be vested with the Director General, ICFRE.
2. Separate saving account in a nationalized or a scheduled bank will be opened in the name and style of Director General, ICFRE-CoE, to keep the interest earned from investment of Corpus Fund which will have the interest earned from the amount available in the Corpus Fund/the investment made thereon.
3. The ICFRE-CoE account will be operated by the Establishment and Accounts Officer (E&AO), ICFRE (Hqtrs.) or any other officer authorized by the DG, ICFRE who will maintain Cash Book, Books of Accounts and Receipt & Payment Account, and will be the custodian of all documents/records pertaining to amount available in the Corpus Fund, investment made therefrom, interest earned therefrom etc.
4. The Corpus Fund shall be invested to earn highest interest and the accrued interest shall be utilized for functioning of the Chairs of Excellence. The Corpus Fund as such is only for earning interest and, therefore, it shall not be utilized for any purpose other than earning interest for running the Chairs of Excellence. The interest earned from the Corpus Fund also shall not be utilized for any purpose other than functioning of Chairs of Excellence.

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5. An Investment Committee comprising following officers shall make recommendations for investment from the Corpus Fund from time to time :-
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|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| a. DDG (Admin.), ICFRE     | - | Chairman         |
| b. DDG (Research), ICFRE   | - | Member           |
| c. DDG (Education), ICFRE  | - | Member           |
| d. ADG (Admin), ICFRE      | - | Member           |
| e. Financial Advisor & CAO | - | Member Secretary |
6. On the recommendations of Investment Committee, DG, ICFRE shall make decision on investment from Corpus Fund. The fund will be managed to provide sustainable returns without depleting the Corpus. For meeting this objective, the Investment Committee shall review the prevailing interest rate scenario at regular intervals, as and when required and suggest the DG, ICFRE for actions to be taken.
7. ICFRE is registered under section 12 AA of the Income Tax Act, 1960, and is exempt from Income Tax. As such no Income Tax is likely to be charged on the returns of investment. Clear instructions to this effect shall be issued to the concerned Bank / Banks while making investment of the Corpus Fund by the officer as stated in clause 3 of these rules.
8. Investment of Corpus Fund shall be made by calling bids for highest rate of interest from nationalized/scheduled banks or in the Government securities as recommended by the Investment Committee.
9. Accounts of Corpus Fund shall be audited by Internal Audit Cell of ICFRE and the Chartered Accountant appointed by CAG for auditing ICFRE Society Accounts. *The Corpus Fund and utilization of its accruals shall also be available for Internal Audit of MoEF and CAG.* The Corpus Fund shall be a part of ICFRE Society Accounts, hence auditing of the Corpus Fund by the Chartered Accountants will be within their scope of auditing ICFRE Society Accounts, and would be covered during annual audit.
10. Details of Corpus Fund such as principal, its annual accruals and expenditure shall be reflected in the annual balance sheet of ICFRE.
11. Funds will be transferred from ICFRE's CoE Account to the FRI, DU and the concerned Director(s) *who shall maintain separate bank account* for incurring expenditure on functioning of the Chairs of Excellence and shall maintain required books of accounts.
12. The funds will be provided to the concerned Directors / FRI DU on the demand raised on quarterly basis to meet expenses on the Chairs. The items of expenditure and expenditure ceiling on each item of expenditure shall be as approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee of MoEF. In case of new items of expenditure considered to be essential for running the chair of excellence and

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the likely expenditure more than the envisaged ceiling, the same can be allowed after obtaining the prior approval of DG, ICFRE within the amount of accruals of interest.

13. The release of funds to the concerned Directors/FRI DU shall only be made after obtaining quarterly Utilization Certificate (UC) from them for the previous releases. Directors/ FRI DU shall also submit annual UC and annual Receipt & Payment account to facilitate consolidation with ICFRE Accounts.

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*M. S. Garbyal* 04/8/2011

**(M.S. Garbyal)**  
Dy. Director General (Admin)