Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla organized a three-day training programme on ‘Planting Stock Improvement for Enhancement of Productivity’ from 29th to 31st October, 2018. This training programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi for other stakeholders and accordingly, the participants from JFMCs, NGOs, Panchayat Watershed Committees, Education Institutions, Block Development Offices, Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, Eco-clubs etc. of the state of Himachal Pradesh participated in this 3 days training programme. The training programme aimed at sensitization of the trainees about various forestry practices and operations towards productivity enhancement and to initiate efforts to increase the productivity vis-a-vis environmental conservation.

**Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director,** Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla inaugurated the training programme. Dr. Tewari, in his inaugural address, informed about the gap and supply of forest produces especially, timber and fuel wood and highlighted the importance of quality planting stock in afforestation programmes for productivity enhancement. He also stressed on the need for such trainings to initiate collaborative efforts to achieve the goals of higher productivity.

Before the start of technical sessions, **Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist-G & Coordinator** of the training programme highlighted the importance of this training for personnel of other stakeholders and relevance of Planting Stock Improvement in productivity enhancement.

During the first technical session, Sh. Jagdish Chander, APCCF (Research) Haryana, delivered a talk on the tree improvement programme in the state of Haryana and highlighted the significance of commercially important indigenous tree species like Shisham, Toona, Semul etc. for the state of Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Ramakant, Scientist-C from Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehra Dun talked about clones and clonal forestry and its importance in productivity by citing examples of the work carried out by the ICFRE institutes. Sh. R.K. Meena, Scientist-D, FRI, Dehra Dun talked about Clonal Forestry and Mass Multiplication of trees by conventional and advance techniques.

In the afternoon, Dr. Santhan Barthwal Scientist-F from FRI, Dehra Dun discussed about various techniques of vegetative propagation and its role in tree improvement. Dr. K.K. Pramanik, Principal Scientist and Head, IARI Regional Station, Shimla delivered a talk on
Nursery production of temperate fruit crops emphasized on various methods of propagation of fruit crops for raising quality planting stock which ultimately contributes for increased productivity.

**On the second day (30.10.2018)**, the participants were taken to the field to show Planting Stock Improvement activities undertaken by HFRI. At HFRI Field Research Station, Shillaru, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-G & Head, Silviculture & Forest Management Division of the institute talked about the Modern Trends in Nursery Management for raising quality planting stock. Dr. Sharma discussed at length cost effective nursery management of poly tunnels and Vermi-compost besides highlighting the issues related with transportation of plants that determines the success of forestry plantations. Thereafter, Sh. Sunil Waman Bhondge and Sh. Vinod Kumar, ACTO, HFRI, Shimla demonstrated and explained various activities carried out by the institute in establishing Seed production Areas (SPAs) of deodar. The participants were also taken to Shillaru, Kandyali and Narkanda to show them Candiate Plus Trees selected by the institute and various other activities being undertaken for raising quality planting stock.

**On the third (31.10.2018) of the training**, Prof. Sanjeev Thakur from Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, Solan delivered a talk on Propagation of forestry trees by grafting and discussed the grafting work carried out in Harad, Baheda and Amla. Dr. Narender Negi, Scientist, NBPGR, Shimla deliberated upon Selection of Superior Genotypes in Productivity Enhancement with special emphasis on Horticultural crops and highlighted the roles of selection process for better output. Sh. G.S. Thakur DCF (Retd.) talked about Soil and water conservation for sustainable development and described and demonstrated various measures taken by the forest department in its pursuit of afforestation activities. He stressed on techniques for conservation of soil moisture in afforestation activities as it has positive correlation with the forest productivity.

The concluding session, in the late afternoon, was chaired by **Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla** in which queries of the participants were addressed and feedback from the trainees were taken. The participants supported in unison to hold such training programmes frequently. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman further highlighted the importance of such training programmes wherein personnel of other stakeholders have been involved not only to inculcate the feelings towards forestry activities but also to have integrated approach in future endeavours. He also thanked the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India for sponsoring this training programme and also to different participating departments for joining their hands to make this training programme a success. He also distributed *Certificates of Participation* to all the participants.

In the end, **Sh. Sunil Waman Bhondge**, ACTO proposed formal vote of thanks to the MOEF&CC, GoI for funding the training programme, Director, HFRI for his guidance, different departments and agencies for sending their representatives to the training programme, the distinguished resource persons from different institutes and everyone associated with the training programme for their help and assistance during the training programme.

***************
Some Glimpse of the Training Programme
प्रोधरोपण सामग्री में सुधार की जरूरत

हम नई विश्वास, जिसका उपयुक्त करने के लिए विशेष प्रोधरोपण सामग्री में सुधार की जरूरत है। विशेष रूप से, नई विश्वास के लिए विशेष प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना है। इसके लिए, हम हमेशा प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं।

विशेष रूप से, नई विश्वास के लिए विशेष प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना है। इसके लिए, हम हमेशा प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं।

विशेष रूप से, नई विश्वास के लिए विशेष प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना है। इसके लिए, हम हमेशा प्रोधरोपण सामग्री का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं।