

## **HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA**

### **Visit of International Delegates from the Department of Plant Resources, Ministry of Forests & Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal : A Brief Report**

A 14 member delegation of Senior Officers from the **Department of Plant Resources (DPR), Ministry of Forests & Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal** visited Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Shimla (HP) on **June 5<sup>th</sup> 2014**. At the outset, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F formally welcomed the officers from Nepal and thereafter, delegates were introduced with the scientists of HFRI. At the start, Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E gave the Power Point presentation highlighting the detailed research and extension activities of the Institute. Following this, Dr. Sandeep Sharma made a presentation on **“Prospects and Potential of Commercial Cultivation of Himalayan Medicinal Plants”**. The delegates appreciated the Research and Development (R&D) activities being undertaken by the Institute and opined that in view of more or less the similar topography and climatic conditions in HP and Nepal, many R&D works of HFRI be replicated in Nepal. The delegation expressed the desire to take initiative for preparation of collaborative research projects in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants for the socio-economic development of rural communities and conservation of these bio-resources in different agro-climatic zones of both the countries.

Later, the delegation was joined by **Dr. VP Tewari, Director** and **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** of the institute in the plenary session. The Director once again welcomed all the delegates and informed them that the Institute has done / is doing excellent work in the field of Medicinal Plants and has also raised quality planting stock of various high valued temperate medicinal plants growing in the Himalayan region for its distribution amongst different stakeholders including local communities. He further added that marketing of medicinal plants in the state of Himachal Pradesh still remains a matter of concern and accordingly, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Dr. Kapoor, GCR, HFRI Shimla, in the light of the discussion, stressed that the delegation should take up the matter with their Ministry for finalizing the line of action for development of collaborative research projects between HFRI and Department of Plant Resources, Ministry of Forests & Soil

Conservation, Govt. of Nepal so as to enable both the countries for sharing of their expertise and experience for the benefit of rural communities in general.

A visit to the various laboratories of the Institute was also organized to get the delegation acquainted with the various ongoing research activities of the Institute.

In the end, **Mrs. Rose Shrestha, Scientific Officer, DPR, Nepal** on behalf of the delegates, thanked Director, HFRI and the scientists of the institute for giving them the opportunity to visit the Institute and interacting with the scientists.

The meeting ended with the formal vote of thanks offered by Dr. KS Kapoor, GCR.

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## Glimpses of the Visit of Inter-national Delegates

