

## Webinar on “Forest Entomology” on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Venue: IT Meeting Room, FRI, Dehradun

Link: <https://meet.google.com/jzs-gywj-gfn>

Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has organized one day webinar on “Forest Entomology on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 for popularising the study of forest insects among students and other stakeholders across India. This webinar was primarily focused on the insect pest incidences in the trees and their control measures. This is the part of a series of online activities in ICFRE to celebrate 75 years of our “**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**” It aims at providing key inputs to the stakeholders about the achievements made in the field of forest entomology after independence at the national Level on Sustainable forest health and preservation of our forest wealth in term of flora and fauna.

Shri Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, Director General , ICFRE and Director, FRI Inaugurated the on line webinar. On his opening remarks, he welcomed the participants introduced them on the work done by forest entomologists in FRI to preserves the insect biodiversity in our National Forest Insect Collection (NFIC) and to develop various packages and practices to control the epidemics in natural forest and plantation like defoliation of Deodar defoliator, beetle attack in kail forest, IPM in Poplar and willow plantation, Termite management in eucalyptus and prevention and controlling of sal heart wood borer attack in sal forest and control the insect damage to our timbers, plywood and wood products. He showed concerns on the serious incidence of different pests on the various tree species, which contribute significantly toward the drying process of indigenous as well as exotic planted in forest ecosystem. He emphasized that the best way to deal these problems is to develop species specific **Integrated Pest Management** Programme for the important tree species to begin with and make available to the end users like State Forest Departments. He also said that the research carried out by FRI should also ensure the transfer of technology, what we call “**Lab to Land Policy**” so that it becomes public orientated programme for the ultimate benefit of a common man.

After the opening remarks of DG, ICFRE, Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Organizing secretary welcomed all the participants and conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to Director General of ICFRE, Shri A.S. Rawat for accepting the invitation and presiding over the inauguration session of the webinar on Forest Entomology. He also outlined the programe of webinar, Present status and future opportunities in forest Entomology, universal access and use of NFIC for advancement of forest entomology science, technology solutions to manage the pest incidences in forest and Other exciting science and technology initiatives on Insect pollinators, Bio-indicators, sericulture, biological control and Bamboo pest management and critical entomological issues need to be addressed.

Dr. Arvind Kumar explained in details the present scenario and future opportunities in the field of forest entomology and emphasis to take up this science in the various fields under industries like entertainment, medicines from insects, culturing of productive insects and its trade in biological control. He also pointed out the package and practices developed by Forest research

Institute for benefit of stakeholders. Miss Shruti Nautiyal explained on insect as pollinators and its importance to our food system and forest ecosystems. Insect pollinators helped thousands of flowering plants to reproduce from flowers to fruits, as 90% of wild flowering plants need pollinators like bees to transfer pollen for successful reproduction. Pollinators contribute £ 690 million worth of crops to our country every year. Mr. Mubashir Rashid spoke on mass multiplication on biological control agents and their use against various forest insect pests especially pteromalid parasitoids. Mr. Jitendra Kumar explained the role of sericulture industries in the economy of India and employment opportunity. Mrs. Indu Singh explained in detail on Insect pest of Bamboo and their management.

Dr. Ranjeet Singh, delivered a talk on Critical Issues in Forest Entomology and various insect pest problems encountered by the state forest department and farmers. He brought the attention toward the large scale out-break of Lymantria Moth in Sal forest of Haldwani Forest Division, epidemics of sal heartwood borer in Sal forest and Pine beetle attack in Blue Pine and caution what can happen if timely attention is not paid to the management of insect-pests in natural forests, plantations and nurseries. He said that due to the change in climate conditions i.e. rise in temperature, receding of glacier in hills, the pest and disease outbreaks have been observed in almost all tree species causing serious damage. Taking into the present trend of climate change, these epidemics are expected to increase in the near future and we are not prepared for it. He emphasized on the scientific management of important species including the preventive and curative measures to control the pests. About 75 participants including scientists, forest officers, students from research organizations, Punjab agricultural university, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, DDG (R), ICFRE participated in the webinar.

Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS, Ex. DG, ICFRE (Rtd.), Dr. N. Kulkarni, Director, Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi, participated in discussion on management of Sal Heart-wood borer in sal forest. He suggested developing the IPM strategies to effectively manage the insect pest incidences in forestry ecosystem.

At the end Dr. Vipin Prakash, Scientist-F conveyed the vote of thanks to all the participants for their active participation.

# Glimpse of the Webinar

