ICFRE has signed an MoU with Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan in October 2018 named as “Prakriti” with a view to create a student environment connect. In view of the prevailing Covid situation, an online webinar for teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya was conducted on the 13th August, 2021 at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun (Uttarakhand). In the event, a total of 335 teachers from various Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya’s under the jurisdiction of FRI i.e. Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand took part.

Ms. Richa Misra, IFS Head, Extension Division, FRI welcomed the Director General, ICFRE Sh. Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya, the resource persons and scientists of the Division and shared a brief outline of online training programme. She then invited the Director General, ICFRE Sh. Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, to formally inaugurate the session and deliver the inaugural address. He addressed the participants and stated that the Prakriti programme was a very well received programme of the institute and the information provided on the different topics of the webinar would serve to raise awareness about the subjects which can be followed up later by individual efforts. He stressed on the importance of conserving biodiversity and also spoke about the benefit sharing mechanism under the Biodiversity Act. He spoke that the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya play a vital role in shaping the ideas of students and creating awareness among them on the issue. In the end, he congratulated the organizers of the programme and wished the programme a success.

The first speaker was Dr. Anup Chandra, Scientist E & Head, Botany Division, FRI on "Biodiversity and Conservation related issues”. He also spoke of the biodiversity hotspots and talked at length about biodiversity with special reference to the RET plants especially in Uttarakhand and their conservation. He
emphasized on the role of teachers to transmit the same to the students. He also talked about the DD Herbarium, which has a rich collection of 3,30000 species. In addition, the Botanical Garden at FRI harbours 400 species in, there are 35 bamboo species in the Bamboosetum.

The second speaker was Sh. R. Arun Kumar, IFS, DCF, Silviculture and Forest Management Division, FRI. He spoke about on “Bio fertilizers”. He spoke at length about the different types of Biofertilisers and their comparison with the organic and chemical fertilizers. He dwelt on the issue as to why biofertilisers were important in comparison to the other soil fertilizers and their mode of action.

The final speaker was Dr. V. K. Varshney, Scientist G from Chemistry and Bio prospecting Division. He spoke on the topic "Essential oils and their applications". He explained what are essential oils, what are their uses and their sources. He spoke with examples as to how these are used in different products used in our day to day life. He also talked about the method of extraction and current overview of demand vis a vis supply of essential oils at the national and international level.

All the three sessions were very well received by the teachers. Queries on the sessions were raised by the teachers and were replied to by the resource persons.

Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist E, Extension Division, FRI facilitated the programme and presented the formal Vote of Thanks. He thanked DG, ICFRE, the resource persons, Head Extension Division along with entire team of Extension Division including, Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist F, Dr. Rambir Singh, Scientist E, Ms. Poonam, Section Officer, Sh. Ramesh Singh, Assistant, Mr. Yatharth, MTS and rest of the division staff who ably supported the programme and contributed to its success.
Glimpses of the Event