XVIII AGM of ICFRE Society in Progress at Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi

Photo: ICFRE, Dehradun
Visit of Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests, Government of India

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India visited Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 22nd November 2009. The Minister visited the facility of Automated Open Top Chambers (AOTC) established in the institute to study the atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) level. The Minister also visited other laboratory facilities. Later, the Minister addressed the gathering of officers and scientists of the institute and appreciated the quality research being carried out by the researchers at IFGTB.

XVIII Annual General Meeting of ICFRE Society

XVIII Annual General Meeting of ICFRE Society was held on 22nd December 2009 under the chairmanship of Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India at Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. During the AGM the Annual Report of ICFRE and the Audited Annual Account for the year 2008-2009 were placed along with the other activities such as confirmation of the minutes of XVII AGM of the ICFRE Society held on 25th November 2008 etc.

IV National Forestry Conference 2009

IV National Forestry Conference was held at Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun from 9th to 11th November 2009. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Harbans Kapoor, Hon'ble Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. Shri Vinay Tandon, IFS, PCCF, Himachal Pradesh and Dr R.B.S. Rawat, IFS, PCCF, Uttarakhand were the guests of honour during the inaugural session. Five technical sessions with specific themes such as Forest and Biodiversity; Sustainable Forest Management; Forest Protection; Forest and Environment, and Education, Extension and Development opportunities were held simultaneously at different venues at FRI.

Over 250 delegates consisting of researchers and scientists from various research institutes like Wildlife Institute of India, Forest Survey of India, NRSA, Central Silk Board, Grass & Fodder Research Institute, Ministry of Defence, AYUSH-Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India and ICFRE Institutes; forest officers from State Forest Departments, Research Institutes and IGNFA; representatives from forest based industries such as Tamil Nadu News Print & Paper Limited, ITC Bhadrachalam, Star Paper mills and students from academic institutions actively participated during the deliberations of the conference.
Brainstorming Session on Research Activities of ICFRE
A brainstorming session on the research activities of ICFRE was held on 9th December 2009 at Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bangalore under the chairmanship of Dr. P. J. Dilipkumar, DGF and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Dr. P. B. Gangopadhyaya, Addl. DG, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India also attended the session. From ICFRE, Dr. G.S. Rawat, Director General, all Deputy Directors, Director (Research), Directors of all the ICFRE institutes and a few nominated scientists from HFRI, Shimla; AFRI, Jodhpur; RFRI, Jorhat; FRI, Dehradun; IFGTB, Coimbatore and IWST, Bangalore participated in the session. The overall mission of the brainstorming session was to identify the gaps and to take appropriate action for making the ICFRE institutes world class in all respect. Action plans such as identification of Thrust Areas/ Areas of specialisation/priority, improvement of service conditions of scientists & other staff, working atmosphere filling of posts etc. were derived to achieve this mission.

XLI Board of Governors’ Meeting
The XLI meeting of the Board of Governors was held under the chairmanship of Shri Vijay Sharma, Chairman of ICFRE Board of Governors and Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests on 9th November 2009 at Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Sharma welcomed all the esteemed members of the Board and desired that ICFRE should carry out research on the subjects of visionary quality and become exemplars in the discipline of forestry research. He further requested all the members to guide ICFRE in improving the quality of forestry research. Director General, ICFRE in his welcome address expressed gratitude towards the Chairman for his leadership and support that led to ICFRE finding its name in the budget speech of the Hon’ble Finance Minister, Government of India on 6th July 2009 for “its excellence in the field of research, education and extension”, while awarding a one-time special grant of Rs. 100 Crores. During the meeting, the Annual Report of ICFRE for the year 2008-09 along with the Audited Annual Account for the year 2008-09 were approved along with the other activities such as confirmation of the minutes of XL Meeting of BOG on 20th April 2009 and approval of Revised Estimates for the year 2009-10 and Budget Estimates for the year 2010-11, adoption of Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme in ICFRE w.e.f. 1st September 2008 etc.

ICFRE Participation in Foreign Meetings/Workshops/Symposia etc.
Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE attended APARI Fifth Assembly on 4th October 2009 in Malaysia.
Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE, Dr. S. S. Negi, Director, FRI, Dehradun, Dr. H.S. Ginwal, Head, G & TP Division, FRI, Dehradun and Dr. Madhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-D, IFGTB, Coimbatore attended International Symposium on “Forest Genetics Resources Conservation” from 5th to 8th October 2009 in Malaysia.
Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE attended FAO SOW FGR Meeting on 9th October 2009 in Malaysia.
Dr. G. S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE attended “III Meeting of Governing Board of the SAARC Forestry Centre” on 12th and 13th October 2009 in Bhutan.
Shri Sandeep Tripathi, Director (Research), ICFRE attended “8th Asia Flux Workshop-2009” from 27th to 30th October 2009 in Japan.
Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist - D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE participated in Barcelona Climate Change Talks from 2nd to 6th November 2009 and in the fifteenth conference of the parties to the UNFCCC / fifth meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol at Copenhagen, Denmark from 7th to 18th December 2009 as part of the Government of India delegation.
Dr. Madhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-D, IFGTB, Coimbatore, Dr. Ashok Kumar,
Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFCGTB, Coimbatore, Dr. A. Nicodemous, Scientist-D, IFCGTB, Coimbatore and Dr. V. Shivkumar, Scientist-D, IFCGTB, Coimbatore attended "XIII World Forest Congress" from 18th to 23rd October 2009 in Argentina.

Sequestration. The training programme was organized on "High level meeting under stretching of the production of improved seed and planting material" from 20th to 30th November 2009 in Australia and Thailand.

Dr. S.S. Negi, Director, FRI, Dehradun, Shri A.S. Rawat, Group Coordinate (Research), FRI, Dehradun; Dr. NSK Harsh, Scientist-F, FRI, Dehradun and Dr. Subhash Nautiyal, Scientist-F, FRI, Dehradun attended "Demonstration of preservation and treatment works on the selected trees and participated in the 16th Plenary session of International Coordinate Committee for safeguarding Angkor" from 9th to 12th December 2009 in Cambodia.

Dr. N.K. Borah, R.O., AFRI, Jodhpur attended "Copenhagen Climate Exchange-2009" from 2nd to 9th December 2009 in Denmark.

Training on Carbon Sequestration
As part of HRD initiatives of the Council, the Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE, Dehradun organized a five-day training course for forest officers and scientists of ICFRE institutes on Carbon Sequestration from 5th to 9th October 2009. Fifteen scientists and forest officers from various ICFRE institutes underwent training on various issues related to Carbon Sequestration. The training programme was highly appreciated by the participants.

The RAG meeting for IFCGTB, Coimbatore was held on 16th and 17th November; FRI, Dehradun from 17th to 19th November; HFRI, Shimla on 23rd and 24th November; RFRI, Jorhat on 26th and 27th November; IWST, Bangalore on 7th and 8th December; IFP Ranchi on 7th and 8th December and AFRI, Jodhpur on 21st and 22nd December 2009. Large number of projects to cater to the needs of various biogeographic zones were presented by the scientists in the RAG for their respective institutes and deliberated before the RAG members.

Upscaling SLEM Practices
A World Bank mission took place from 7th to 11th December 2009 to launch the Medium-Size GEF Project (MSP) for Policy and Institutional Reforms for Mainstreaming and Upscaling for Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India. For the next three years, ICFRE shall be coordinating with six other GEF funded projects with the overall objective of mainstreaming and upscaling SLEM practices in the country.

Mid Career Training Project
ICFRE was awarded Mid Career Training Project of Ministry of Environment & Forests for training IFS officers with 7 to 9 years of service (phase III) after an extremely competitive process. The cost of the project is Rs 5.89 crore for a period of three years. ICFRE has partnered with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun; FSI, Dehradun; IIM, Ahmadabad; Swedish University of Agricultural Survey, Sweden and Colorado State University, USA for providing the best training inputs to the officers. ICFRE signed contract with IGNFA for this purpose on 3rd December 2009.

IV Directors’ Meet
ICFRE convened IV Directors’ Meet on 25th September 2009 at Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.S. Rawat, D.G., ICFRE. The Deputy Director Generals and...
Directors of the institutes deliberated on issues related to administration, financial matters and human resource development of the Council. The review of the action taken report on the III Directors' Meet was also discussed.

Quinquennial Review
Quinquennial Review Reports of four institutes viz., FRI, Dehradun; AFRI, Jodhpur; RFRI, Jorhat and IFGTB, Coimbatore and one centre i.e. FRC, Hyderabad (IWST, Bangalore) have been analyzed in view of the comments of respective Directors and directions have been communicated to FRI, Dehradun; AFRI, Jodhpur and RFRI, Jorhat for implementation.

Workshops/Seminars/Meetings etc.
AFRI, Jodhpur organized a brain storming session on mortality of Khejari (Prosopis cineraria) on 16th November 2009. Officers/Scientists from AFRI and various other research institutions such as CAZRI, Agriculture research stations, Mandore, Fatehpur and Jalore; ZSI, Ground water Board, State Forest Department and progressive farmers from Sikar, Nagaur and Barmer actively participated in the workshop.

FRI, Dehradun in coordination with Hindi Vigyan Parishad, Bhaba Parmanu Anusandhan Kendra of Mumbai organized a seminar on “Industrial Development and Environmental Conservation in Hill Region” in Hindi on 4th and 5th November 2009. Also, an International seminar on “Multitask Forestry” was organised from 9th & 13th November 2009 at FRI, Dehradun.

Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jabalpur in collaboration with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal organized a one-day consultative workshop on “Development of Criterion and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)” on 12th October 2009.

IWST, Bangalore organized a one-day Indo-Italian seminar on “Use of Modern Technologies in Forestry and Advancement in Wood Science” on 19th November 2009. Thirty two delegates from various other institutions and 25 in-house participants actively participated in the seminar.

HFRI, Shimla organized a one-day interactive workshop on “Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants of Kinnaur District, Himachal Pradesh” on 5th November 2009 at Chhitkul, Kinnaur District. About 65 villagers, field staff of the forest department and other stakeholders participated in the workshop.

Trainings
Bamboo Technical Support Group (BTSG), ICFRE (National Bamboo Mission) organized seven “Five days Training Programmes” for farmers and field functionaries from the states of Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat up to December 2009. Hindi poster titled “Bans aajeevika ka ek sadhan” was also reprinted under Promotional Campaign of National Bamboo Mission for free distribution.

FRI, Dehradun on special request, organized for the first time a five-day training course for field staff of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on “Plant Conservation & Nursery Technology” from 14th to 18th December 2009. The institute also organized a four-day training course on “Afforestation techniques for Eco Task Force of Territorial Army” from 27th to 30th October 2009.

FRI, Dehradun organized training on “Propagation, Cultivation, Management and PHT on Bamboos” for the officers of Horticulture Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur from 26th to 30th October 2009. Also conducted a training on “Cultivation and value addition of medicinal plants” from 7th to 11th December 2009.

IWST, Bangalore conducted a training on “Sandal Seed and Nursery Technology” from 23rd to 27th November 2009 for farmers from Kamataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh at IWST, Bangalore.

TFRI, Jabalpur organized training on “Application of Biofertilizers in Nurseries and Plantation and Clonal Propagation of teak, shisham, eucalypts, sissoo, etc.” from 16th to 18th November 2009 for officials of FDCM, Maharashtra.
TFRI, Jabalpur organized ICFRE-BAIF sponsored training on "Agroforestry" from 27th to 30th October 2009 for the farmers of Yeotmal and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra and at Hubli, Karnataka from 9th to 13th November 2009.

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore organised a two-day training on quality planting stock production for farmers on 8th and 9th October 2009. A total of 27 farmers from Karur, Erode, Coimbatore and Pudukkotai participated in the training.

IFGTB, Coimbatore organised a two-day training on “Germplasm characterization using DNA marker technologies” on 3rd and 4th December 2009. A total of 25 participants from various colleges participated in the said training programme.

AFRI, Jodhpur organised a one-week compulsory training of IFS officers on “Integrated Approach for Sustainable Development of Fragile Desert Ecosystem” sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi, from 14th to 18th December 2009. A total of 31 IFS officers from all over the country attended the course.

Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP), Ranchi conducted training on “Lac Cultivation through scientific method” at N.B. Farm, Hesadhih and N.B. Farm, Chandwa on 30th October 2009 in which 85 farmers participated.

Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat imparted training on bamboo to the forest officials of Mon District, Nagaland on 29th and 30th October 2009.

Van Vigyan Kendra
FRI, Dehradun organised a series of trainings for foresters and farmers on “Nursery and Plantation Technique” under Van Vigyan Kendra from 9th to 11th December 2009 at VVK, Chandigarh; from 8th to 10th December 2009 at VVK, Pinjore, Haryana; and from 16th to 18th December 2009 at VVK, Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

IFGTB, Coimbatore through the Van Vigyan Kendra of Tamil Nadu organized one day trainings to farmers on "Tree Cultivation and Protection of Plant Varieties" in association with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Coimbatore District Herbal and Tree Growers Association on 6th October 2009 and on "Plantation Management" for the Assistant Conservators of Forests and Range Officers of the Extension wing of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department on 9th November 2009 at the institute.

TFRI, Jabalpur organized a two-day training for State Forest Department officials, NGOs and farmers on “Development of Wasteland through Agroforestry, Agroforestry Intervention for Sustainable Livelihood Security” at Jabalpur on 4th and 5th December 2009 under VVK, Madhya Pradesh.

Publications
ICFRE published its first inhouse annual Hindi magazine, “Taruchintan” in the month of November 2009. The magazine contains articles on various topics including Forestry, Literature and Reports on implementation of Rajbhasha Hindi.


Vigilance Awareness Week
Vigilance Awareness Week was celebrated in ICFRE (H.Q.), Dehradun; FRI, Dehradun; IFGTB, Coimbatore; IWST, Bangalore; RFRI, Jorhat; HFRI, Shimla and IFP, Ranchi from 3rd to 7th November 2009. Various activities were undertaken to celebrate the occasion besides taking oath.
**Extension of Technology - Natural Dye**

Dr. Sanjay Naithani, Dr. V.K. Varshney and Shri Rakesh Kumar, of FRI participated in the first State Level Project Task Force Committee meeting held on 7th December 2009 at Gangtok. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman, Sikkim Khadi & Village Industries Board (SKVIB). FRI made detailed technical presentation and finalized the future course of action related to erection and commissioning of the natural dyes extraction unit at Gangtok. A visit was also made to the proposed site for erection of the unit.

**Kisan Mela/Exhibition/Trade Fair**

IFGTB, Coimbatore organized Karshaka Mela in collaboration with Kerala Forest Department and Kerala Forest Research Institute on 3rd and 4th November 2009 at KFRI, Peechi to sensitise the farmers of Kerala on issues related to tree cultivation.

FRI, Dehradun organized Vaniki Mela at the Shatabadi Van Vigyan Kendra, Dehradun with the aim to provide information to the public to make them self reliant and self employed through technologies developed by FRI on 12th October 2009. The institute also participated in the exhibition of Forest & Climate Change at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 21st to 23rd October 2009.

**Awards**

Shri Pawan K. Kaushik and Shri N. K. Vasu of RFRI, Jorhat won the 2nd best poster award on Technology demonstration and On-farm participatory research - An approach towards making the Natural Resource Management (NRM) technologies viable for locals and adaptable to the locality presented during the National Forestry Conference held at FRI, Dehradun on 9th November 2009.

Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist-D of IFP, Ranchi received "Prof. K. K. Nag Foundation Chair Young Scientist Gold Medal" for contributions in the field of Physiology and Molecular Biology by International Consortium of Contemporary Biologists on 20th November 2009.

**Awareness Campaigns**

Advanced Research Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ARCBR), Aizwal conducted a series of Awareness Campaigns on “Sustainable Harvesting and Establishment of Rattan Plantations” at various places in Tripura, Mizoram and in Cachar Valley of Assam. RFRI, Jorhat organized Awareness Generation Programme on “Sustainable Production in Jhum Land through Legume based Agroforestry” in Phumen Ingti village, (Rongmonwe block) and Raising Rongpi village, (Nilip block) Karbi Anglong, Assam from 18th to 21st December 2009.

**Miscellaneous**

IFGTB, Coimbatore set up a Tree Information Centre in the institute to sensitize farmers on various forestry related activities taken up by the institute and general information related to tree cultivation. The centre was inaugurated on 16th November 2009.

Dr. G. S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE inaugurated the model nursery at Demo Village, Kandiyr on 8th December 2009. Commemorative planting was done by DG, ICFRE and other senior officers in the model nursery, and interacted with the Self Help Group assigned with the task of raising and maintenance of the nursery established at Demo Village. DG, ICFRE spoke at length about the purpose of establishing VVK and Demo Village.

DG, ICFRE distributed the gas connections to the anganwadi for the benefit of the children and chairs and tables to the primary school. He also distributed quality planting material to the villagers.

**DG, ICFRE distributing quality planting material**
S.No. Name & Designation Date

Appointments:
1. Shri Rajendra Singh, Scientist-C, FRI, Dehradun 01.10.2009

Promotions:
1. Shri J.S. Chauhan, R.O., CFRHRD, Chhindwara 07.10.2009
2. Dr. Mamta Purohit, R.O., HFRI, Shimla 09.10.2009
3. Dr. S.N. Mishra, R.O., IFP, Ranchi 12.10.2009
5. Shri S.N. Vijaychandran, R.O. FRI, Dehradun 28.10.2009
7. Shri R. Rajarishi, Scientist-B, RFRI, Jorhat 30.10.2009
9. Shri S.K. Kohli, Scientist-E, FRI, Dehradun 03.11.2009

Transfer to:

Deputation:
2. Shri S.S. Rautela, FRO/Silva Div., FRI, Dehradun 05.11.2009

Repatriation:
1. Shri K. Kar. SFS (Mizoram), DCF, ARCBR, Aizawl 06.10.2009
2. Shri T. Gunasekharan, IFS (CHG:84), IFGTB, Coimbatore 09.10.2009
3. Shri C.S. Swaroop, FRO, IWST, Bangalore 09.10.2009

Retirement:
1. Shri N.R. Banwal, Scientist-C, RS&M Division, FRI, Dehradun 30.11.2009
2. Dr. Sas Biswas, Head, Botany Div., FRI, Dehradun 31.12.2009

OBITUARY
ICFRE family deeply condoles the sudden and sad demise of Dr. S.S.R. Bennet, Scientist (Retd.) of IFGTB, Coimbatore on 14.12.2009; Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma, T.A.I(Meter Reader), FRI, Dehradun on 22.11.2009; Shri Ram Piyare, Office Attendant, FRI, Dehradun on 02.12.2009; Shri Ramendra Kumar Baruah, Peon, RFRI, Jorhat on 08.11.2009 and prays for the peace of the departed souls.

Demonstration Model - Dry Land Agroforestry
IFGTB, Coimbatore has established a demonstration plot of dry land agroforestry models in 12 ha area using tree species of teak, Casuarina, Eucalyptus, Alnus, Gmelina and Melia at Kandiur Demo Village under Extension of technologies. These agroforestry models are being used for demonstration purpose for the farmers to promote large scale adoption.

Visit of Dignitaries
Smt. Margret Alva, Her Excellency, Governor of Uttarakhand visited FRI, Dehradun on 7th December 2009.
Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament, visited FRI, Dehradun on 3rd November 2009.

Dr. Ashwathnarayana C.N., MLA, of Malleswaram Constituency visited IWST, Bangalore on 30th November 2009 and had interaction with the Director and other scientists of the institute regarding transfer of technology.

Patron:
Dr. Govind Singh Rawat, DG, ICFRE

Editorial Board:
Dr. Rabindra Kumar, DDG (Extn.), Chairman
Shri R.P. Singh, ADG (M&P), Honorary Editor
Shri R.K. Dogra, ADG (Edhu.), Member
Dr. (Mrs.) V. Jeeka, Scientist-D (EIA), Member
Shri Ramakant Mishra, R.O. (M&P), Member

Published for private circulation only.
The articles in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.
Articles and photographs may be freely reproduced with due acknowledgment.
Articles for publication may be sent to Honorary Editor.
Digital version is available on www.icfre.gov.in

All Communications and suggestions for improvement may kindly be address to:

Honorary Editor
Shri R.P. Singh, ADG (Media & Publication)
Directorate of Extension, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006
E-mail: adg_mpp@icfre.org Phone: 2755221 FAX: 91-135-2750693