

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIONS, FORESTRY RESEARCH NEED ASSESSMENT: INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PROCESS IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HELD ON 06.08.2010 AT HIMLAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HFRI) SHIMLA.

A Stakeholders' Consultation for **Setting up of Forestry Research Need Assessment: Institutionalizing the Process in the State of Himachal Pradesh** was organized at HFRI, Shimla on 06.08.2010 under the Chairmanship of **Shri Vinay Tandon, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, H.P.**

At the outset, **Shri Mohinder Pal, Director, HFRI, Shimla** welcomed all the participants comprising of Senior Forest Officers of the state, Officers & Scientists including other research staff of the institute and other stakeholders. About 50 participants were present during the meeting. Director, HFRI, further informed the house that ICFRE has initiated the process of prioritizing the forestry research needs as per the stakeholders' requirements and keeping in view the fact that research should be need based and must be beneficial to the end users. He informed that in this endeavour, HFRI is organizing this stakeholders' meeting here in Himachal Pradesh being one of mandated state of the institute.

Lot of discussions were held on each of the identified thrust areas. However, while concluding the meeting, the Chairman emphasized that keeping in view the Himalayan Ecology and the threats through which the temperate forests are passing, there are lot many things to do but the stakeholders - Forest Department being the main - expects that the following issues should be taken up by the institute on priority basis as far as the state of Himachal Pradesh is concerned.

1. *Pinus gerardiana* an important species of the dry temperate zone is facing extinction because of the various factors both biotic and abiotic including human interventions. Therefore, it becomes imminent on the part of this research institute to initiate genetical studies touching various aspects of the species for devising its conservation strategies.
2. Ecological shift in general taking place throughout the world including Himalayas but somehow records and basic data to this effect are not

available with the user agency. The job is, of course, quite huge but, it is expected from the institute that research should be initiated on the lines giving top priority to the transitional and alpine zones falling in the state.

3. Keeping in view the effect of climate change, assessment of the carbon potential of the tree species growing in the temperate zone is another important area, which requires details studies for scientific management of the forest resources. The data thus generated can provide clue towards formulation of suitable strategies .

Sh. Vinay Tandan, IFS, PCCF, Himachal Pradesh further assured the assistance from the Forest Department of the state.

After hearing the inputs of various stakeholders, Director, HFRI, concluded by saying that the issues prioritized will be taken care of by the institute in collaboration with Forest Department and other research organizations involved in such type of work.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and other participants by Director, HFRI, Shimla.

**[MOHINDER PAL, IFS]
DIRECTOR**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIONS, FORESTRY RESEARCH NEED ASSESSMENT: INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PROCESS IN THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR HELD ON 01.07.2010 AT VAN BHAWAN, JAMMU (JAMMU & KASHMIR)

A Stakeholders' Consultation for **Setting up of Forestry Research Need Assessment: Institutionalizing the Process in the State of Jammu & Kashmir** was organized by HFRI, Shimla on 01.07.2010 at Van Bhawan, Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) under the Chairmanship of **Shri Jagdish Kishwan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J & K.**

At the outset, **Shri Mohinder Pal, Director, HFRI, Shimla** welcomed all the participants comprising of Senior Forest Officers of the State, Officers and Scientists from HFRI, and other stakeholders. He informed the house that ICFRE has initiated the process of prioritizing the forestry research needs as per the stakeholders' requirements and keeping in view the fact that research should be need based and must be beneficial to the end users. Today's meeting is a step towards this endeavour, Mr. Pal added.

Issues pertaining to different regions i.e. Jammu region, Kashmir valley & Leh were discussed keeping in view the thrust areas.

Finally, the following regional research priorities were emerged.

For Jammu Region:

- Teak need to be a priority species and research work need to be initiated on the species.
- Extension being of the research institute viz-a-viz State Forest Departments should be strong and the success stories should be shared with the stakeholders.
- Baseline data of the work done so far should be prepared and developed by SFRI for future discussions.

For Kashmir Valley:

Lot of discussions were held and the house finally concluded the following research areas for immediate attention;

- Regeneration of Silver, Fir and Spruce
- Establishment of sample plots of Fir in each of the zones of the valley.
- Regeneration studies of broad leaved species viz *Betula* spp, *Alnus* spp. and *Fraxinus* spp.
- Bio-mapping of medicinal plants, assessment of biodiversity rich areas and establishment of medicinal plant conservation area (MPCAs) essentially need be looked into in the temperate region.

For Leh Region:

Following research priorities emerged for Leh region of the state.

- Eco-system Management related studies (Alpine Pasture Management, Productivity Assessment) need to be carried out.
- Preservation plots of *Juniper* spp. need to be established.
- *Ulmus laevigata* need to be worked out ecologically and silviculturally.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and to the participants by Director, HFRI, Shimla.

**[MOHINDER PAL, IFS]
DIRECTOR**