

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL MONTHLY RESEARCH SEMINAR HELD ON 31.07.2018

11th Monthly Research Seminar on the title “**Forest Productivity**” and revolving around the issue “**Managing forests and forest products for livelihood support and economic growth**” was organized in the Conference Hall of Himalayan Forest Research Institute,



Shimla on **31st July, 2018**. The scientists, officers and researchers including technical staff of the institute were present during the seminar for sharing their perspectives and viewpoints viz-a-viz identification of the research needs and implementation strategies with specific reference to the title as mentioned above.

After seeking permission of the chair, **Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** started the proceedings with welcome of the Director, all the HODs, Scientists, Officers, Technical and Research support staff present during the seminar. Thereafter, he apprised the researchers present in the hall about the topic to be discussed and also on the related issues of the seminar. Thereafter, he requested **Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI)** to chair the proceedings of this research seminar.



In his opening remarks, **Dr. V P Tewari, Director, HFRI** emphasized upon the importance



of Forest Productivity, its related issues and finally added that it is a vast topic to be researched upon and in-fact encompasses majority of the research issues in forestry sector including the multi-disciplinary approach required to tackle the same. With these remarks, he told the GCR to ask the presenter to start

the presentation. Accordingly, Dr. Kapoor invited the presenters for presentation but before that, he informed the house that this presentation has been prepared by a team comprising of S/Shri Ashwani Kumar and Vinod Kumar, Assistant Chief Technical Officer of the institute.

During presentation on the defined topic, speaker elaborated upon the details about the issue of Forest Productivity in quite comprehensive way. He explained background of the issue including its scenario at the global and national level at length. A mention about the major challenges and threats to Forest Productivity were also made by the presenter and subsequently discussed quite minutely. In the end of presentation, research works carried out in past by the institute with emphasis on productivity enhancement of were presented alongwith the prospects/future agenda/research needs at the state and national level. The presentation was concluded by emphasizing upon the fact that research on enhancement in productivity covering the most important aspect should be initiated forthwith.



Once the presentation was over, Chairman thanked the team for making nice efforts while highlighting the forest productivity and its relevance in today's scenario. Thereafter, he asked the researchers present in the hall to give their viewpoints so that the issues in nutshell covering various aspects be highlighted. In the meantime, while reacting to the presentation, the Chairman specifically suggested that area under forest cover should not include the area above the tree line, as shown in the presentation. Combining such areas with the areas under forest will give a wrong notion of the exact figure pertaining to the forest cover of that particular region. He further highlighted that the data pertaining to growing stock and preparation of volume tables is the need of our and accordingly, should be taken up on priority basis in the present day scenario in view of the fact that such volume table prepared earlier for majority of the temperate forest have become obsolete.

The Chairman also showed his concern and flagged this specific issues and was of the view that the institute to begin with, should start with such exercise in deodar forests present well within the campus of this institute. The outcome of this exercise will certainly bring name to the institute on professional front, he added. He wished that various research divisions of the institute, especially the Silviculture & Forest Management, Genetics and Tree Improvement and Forest Protection Division should start this combined exercise for the forests under reference in the specific interest on forestry.

Issues like inclusion of the latest data during presentation has also been underlined. Dr. Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research was of the view the ongoing initiatives of the state forest department must be kept in view while initiating research and framing strategies subsequently with an objective aiming at enhancement of forest productivity.

Past efforts aiming at productivity enhancement through various trials using provenances and clones when discussed, the Chairman made it a point that in view of the requirement such initiatives are quite important.

Outcomes of the Seminars:

- ✧ Long-term studies with specific reference to assessment of Site Productivity should be initiated so as to assess and determine the changes in soil compaction because of organic matter those ultimately affect the forest productivity.
- ✧ Introduction of proper crop planning to discourage the practice of mono-culture.
- ✧ The eco-plan should be prepared in such a way so as to encourage the conservation and management of bio-diversity component and wherever, possible with a special focus on the endangered species for their rehabilitation in their respective habitat.
- ✧ There is an urgent need to organize workshops, seminars and other awareness programmes where theoretical and practical knowledge be shared by involving communities. There is a dire need to propagate awareness about bio-diversity amongst the people like creation of eco-clubs in our rural areas.
- ✧ People should be motivated to take part in social forestry programme. In this connection their cooperation and involvement are essential with respect to modern nursery creation of elite trees of the local species relevant to the particular end use and land use.

Formulation of Future strategies & Networking:

- ✧ The vast potential of biodiversity and NWFPs found in forests should be studied and considered for further formulation of the projects in the near future.
- ✧ The Seedling Seed Orchards, Clonal Seed Orchards and demonstration plots established and raised by the institute in the past under various projects needs to be monitored, assessed and quantified for studying the various aspects of Forest Productivity.

It was proposed and discussed that the institute can always collaborate on these lines with other research institute of the region.

In the end, **Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** thanked the participants for their active involvement in this seminar and also providing the best of their inputs for

prioritizing the research needs and areas, identification of the gaps for developing future strategies. He further added that the intent of the seminar has been achieved to a considerable extent.

SOME GLIMPSES OF THE SEMINAR

