

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

ICFRE-North India Regional Research Conference

(20th April 2018)

To discuss and identify research issues on the regional basis, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organised the North India Regional Research Conference on **20th April 2018** in which senior forest officers and researchers from the states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh, senior professors from the Universities, Non Governmental Organizations, progressive farmers and other stakeholders participated. This was the third conference in the series of the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education's initiative in organizing such conferences to bring all the research organizations working in various fields of forestry at one platform and share their research issues to look for the possibilities of collaborating with each other to formulate coordinated programmes in holistic manner.

Dr. Sanjeeva Pandey, PCCF, HP was the Chief Guest of the function while , Sh. Ashok Kumawat, APCCF, Haryana was the Guest of Honour and Dr. S.C. Gairola, Director General ICFRE presided over the function. Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries on the dias and all other participants and thanked Director General ICFRE for providing HFRI, Shimla an opportunity to hold this prestigious event. Sh. S.D. Sharma, DDG (Research), ICFRE gave introduction about the workshop and its genesis. Sh. Ashok Kumawat, APCCF, Haryana talked about the productivity of forests, highlighted the significance of such conferences and stressed the need to hold such conferences on regular basis. Dr. S.C. Gairola, Director General, ICFRE emphatically stressed on the ICFRE initiatives of holding such conferences and monthly seminars at each of the regional research institutes of ICFRE for better understanding and liaising with sister organizations and stakeholders. Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjeeva Pandey, PCCF, HP talked about the Biological Diversity and the need for its conservation in the light of changing climatic conditions. He exhorted the participants to deliberate meticulously on the thematic issues for crystallizing agenda for future research and also to work out the modalities of inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary workable programmes. Dr. KS. Kapoor, GCR, HFRI, Shimla proposed the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and the delegates of all the participating states, union territories and other research organizations.

This conference was divided into three technical sessions and the first technical session '**Forestry research problem and issues of the State/UT Forest Department**' was for the representatives of participating forest departments. The session was chaired by Dr. S.C. Gairola, Director General, ICFRE and co-Chaired by Dr. O.P. Chaurasia, Director, Defence

Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh. During this session, Sh. H.S. Dogra, APCCF (Research); Sh. J.C. Joshi, DCF (Res.), Uttarakhand; Sh. Jagdish Chander, CCF, Haryana; Sh. T.K. Behra, CF, Punjab; Sh. T.C. Nautiyal, CF, Chandigarh and Sh. N. Ravindra, CCF (Research) & Silviculturist, Uttar Pradesh presented the research highlights and forestry issues & concerns of their respective states before the house.

The second technical session '**Forestry research in the Northern Region of the country**' was chaired by Sh. Ashok Kumawat, APCCF, Haryana and co-Chaired by Sh. H.S. Dogra, APCCF, HP. During this session, 6 presentations were made. Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (R&P), ICFRE highlighted the research activities of the council all across its 9 regional research institutes and 6 centers. Dr. Savita, Director, FRI, Dehra Dun talked about the research highlights and achievements of the institute. Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla delivered his talk on research achievements of the institute. Dr. S. S. Samant, Scientist In-Charge, GBPNIHESD, Kullu deliberated upon the research achievements of his organization and its achievements. Dr. Sanjeev Chauhan, Head, CAZRI_RRS, Leh talked about the harsh realities of cold desert of Leh and their endeavor of reaching the local communities with regard to their research work in agriculture and forestry. Prof. K.R. Sharma, College of Forestry, UHF, Nauni (Solan) highlighted various research achievements of the college including education and research.

The third technical session '**Interactive session with stakeholders**' was chaired by Dr. Savita, Director, FRI, Dehra Dun and co-chaired by Sh. Jagdish Chander, CCF, Haryana. During this session various research organizations, NGOs and progressive farmers talked about their work and emerging issues in forestry sector. Dr. Mohar Singh, Scientist In-charge, NBPGR, Shimla talked about the research highlights of their organization with special reference to the work being done on conservation of medicinal plants. Dr. T.H. Masoodi, Dean (Forestry), SKUAST-K, Srinagar talked about the forestry research achievements of the university and deliberated upon various issues of forestry research being faced by the SKUAST. Dr. Lal Singh, Director, HRG, Shimla highlighted the work on solar panels and fodder scarcity and innovations done by his organization. Dr. R.S. Minhas, Chairman, HIMOARD, Rampur talked about organic farming, wild apricot & walnut cultivation and collection and its marketing by his organization. Sh. Baldev Thakur, Pradhan, Nauni Panchayat talked about initiatives taken by his panchayat for rejuvenation of natural resources. Sh. Sabla Ram Chauhan, a progressive farmer talked about encroachments in forest areas and sustainability of harvest to protect the forest from degradation. Prof. T.N. Lakhan Pal, retired Professor lauded the initiative of Director General, ICFRE for coordinated efforts and stressed for its continuity. Dr. S.P. Bhardwaj, retired Prof. and ex-VC also called for raising germplasm banks of prominent tree species and involving people in afforestation work.

After these technical sessions, the delegates, based on their field of expertise, were divided into three working groups to deliberate upon the three themes viz., **Productivity Enhancement, Biodiversity and Climate Change** and **Tree outside Forest and Urban Forestry** for identifying the research needs for the Northern region of the country. The groups deliberated upon the issue and the recommendations of each theme were presented and discussed in the concluding session which was chaired by Dr. S.C. Gairola, Director

General, ICFRE and co-chaired by Sh. S.D. Sharma, DDG (Research), ICFRE. The Director General, ICFRE in his concluding remark suggested to work on the recommendations provided by the group by focusing on pin pointed workable targets and a holistic action plan involving all the research institutions for sharing of responsibilities so as to realize the gains of increased productivity and conservation of resources.

The conference ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla to all the dignitaries and distinguished participants of this one-day conference

Glimpses of ICFRE-North India Regional Research Conference







