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Foreword

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is a premier organization of the nation in the forestry sector striving for sustainable management and holistic development of forestry resources in the country through people oriented contemporary scientific approach. The forestry research, education and extension activities of the Council are pragmatically planned to achieve its aims and objectives through meeting the needs of stakeholders and environmental challenges nationally as well as globally.

At international level, the Council organised two side events during COP 22 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Marrakesh (Morocco) on 9 & 12 November 2016. First event was on Afforestation and REDD+ in India, another event on Ecosystem and climate change. ICFRE in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) also organised side event on "Transboundary REDD+ programme in Himalayas: South-South cooperation for climate change mitigation".

In its endeavor to develop high yielding clones/varieties for improving the productivity and tree cover five high yielding clones of Casuariana, developed by IFGTB, Coimbatore, three varieties of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (forest red gum) and ten varieties of *Melia dubia* (Malabar neem) developed by FRI, Dehradun, and two high yielding varieties of *Rauvolfia serpentina* (sarpagandha) developed by TFRI, Jabalpur were released by the Variety Releasing Committee (VRC) of ICFRE in February 2017.

ICFRE is providing consultancies in the field of hydro-power, reclamation of mines and other environmental aspects. It has entered into MoUs with State Forest Departments of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh for evaluation of plantation schemes under respective state CAMPA fund. The Council is also monitoring the NTPC Accelerated Afforestation programme of 10 million trees in seven states.

The Council and FRI, Dehradun with support from MoEF&CC and Common wealth Forestry Association organized the 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference at FRI, Dehradun from 3 to 7 April 2017. Regional research conferences have also been initiated to ensure greater stakeholders' participation in our research planning, one such regional conference was organized on 17 July 2017 at IWST, Bengaluru.

The Council with a view to expand its outreach and to build up active cooperation with other organizations has actively initiated Memoranda of Understanding with other organizations like Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC).

I am delighted to present ICFRE Annual Report 2016-17 which provides an insight into research, education and extension activities of the Council.

(Dr. Suresh Gairola)



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