

CHAPTER-XIV

FORESTRY EDUCATION

With ever increasing demand for forest produce, enhancement of productivity and more efficient use of available forest resource have assumed special significance. To achieve these objectives, it is imperative to improve existing management practices and acquire new technologies and skills. Facets of forestry education are therefore central for the progress of scientific forestry. With a view to making forestry education more fruitful and relevant by incorporating latest research findings and technologies, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, was granted the status of Deemed University by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India in December 1991. In order to exercise general supervision and co-ordinate forestry education, a full fledged Directorate of Education was created in ICFRE in 1993. The main functions of the Directorate are :

- (i) Supervision of FRI - Deemed University, which at present is running post graduate courses in forestry (economics and management), and wood science and technology; P.G. Diploma courses in plantation technology, and pulp and paper technology; and doctoral programmes on various aspects of forestry.
- (ii) Arranging educational and training programmes to generate trained human resource.
- (iii) Providing support to universities imparting forestry education.
- (iv) Providing consultancies on education and training.
- (v) Conducting professional skill development programmes.
- (vi) Review and developments of forestry education curricula in universities/schools.
- (vii) Validation of forestry curricula in formal educational channel leading to degrees in forestry.
- (viii) Providing research fellowships.
- (ix) Planning human resource and development activities, etc.

The achievements during the year 1996-97 are given below :

1. Doctoral and post - doctoral programmes

Forest Research Institute, Deemed University is actively engaged in running doctoral and post doctoral research programmes in various disciplines of forestry at different institutes under ICFRE. The Council is funding these programmes by providing research fellowships to the incumbents. During 1996-97, eleven candidates were registered for Ph.D degree programme in forestry and allied sciences. Seven candidates were awarded doctorate degree.

2. Research fellowships

The total number of Research Fellows/Associates working in different institutes under ICFRE during the year 1996-97 were as follows :

Junior Research Fellow :	66
Senior Research Fellow :	17

The Research Fellows and Associates are handling research programmes on various facets of forestry and are getting training to form the future workforce for R & D activities in the forestry sectors.

3. Post-graduate diploma and degree courses

At present FRI-DU is running the following post-graduate courses :

- (a) One year post-graduate diploma courses.
 - (i) Plantation technology.
 - (ii) Pulp and paper technology.
- (b) Two years post graduate courses.
 - (i) M.Sc. Forestry (Economics and Management).
 - (ii) M.Sc. Wood Science & Technology.

The strength of students in the current session (1996-97) is as follows :

Plantation Technology	17
Pulp and Paper Technology	15
M.Sc. Forestry	14
M.Sc. Wood Science & Technology	14

It may be mentioned that all students passed out so far with P.G. diploma have been absorbed in private/Govt. sectors and have proved to be excellent workforce for forest based industries and tree growers.

Number of students passing P.G. Diploma Course during 1995-96 were as follows :

Plantation Technology	12
Pulp and Paper Technology	12

4. Foreign training

To provide latest training and educational exposures to foresters/scientists of ICFRE, arrangements were made for visits abroad for short term as well as long term training courses, meetings/symposia and workshop.

Study tours were undertaken in a number of countries to get acquainted with latest developments and research and educational strategies. The financial assistance was provided by World Bank, UNDP, British Council, IDRC, FAO, INBAR, USDA under various forestry research and educational support programmes.

Slots provided		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
-	Study Tour	6	23	22	6: Nominations
-	3 months	66	50	50	21: Finalised
-	9-12 months	3	4	3	8:
Slots Utilized					
-	Study Tour	9	22	4	-
-	3 months	63	37	11	-
-	12 months	3	4	2	-

5. National training

Four training courses were arranged for scientists/foresters working in the institutes under ICFRE to provide them exposure in Research Management. Nearly all the scientists/foresters down to Scientists-SD level have been trained. During the year, 101 scientists/foresters attended the training courses. So far 143 personnel have received the training in Research Management.

6. Technical and financial support to various universities

In order to strengthen the forestry education, technical and financial assistance to the tune of 90.75 Lakhs has been extended to the following universities :

- (i) Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi
- (ii) Guru Ghasi Das University, Bilaspur
- (iii) Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana
- (iv) Kumaun University, Nainital
- (v) H.N. Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar
- (vi) Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan
- (vii) Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore.

7. Curricula and syllabi development

Programmes for curriculum review and development for post graduate education in forestry have been evolved with a view to maintaining uniformity and standard in the syllabi (in tune with the latest National Forest Policy) of the universities imparting M.Sc. Forestry Degree. Three such universities were identified for curriculum review studies, viz. (i) Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore. (ii) Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi and (iii) Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan. Exercise on curriculum review is in progress.

8. Training course and consultancies

A series of training courses (8 courses) as consultancy were organised on Assisted Natural Regeneration for U.P. forest Department personnel. 171 officers (from Chief Conservator of Forests down to Rangers) attended these courses.

9. Human resource development plan

Terms of reference dealing with various issues on HRD plan for ICFRE were prepared and a comprehensive approach paper is being synthesized in this regard.