

PROGRESSIVE PUNJAB AGRICULTURE SUMMIT-2014

(16th to 19th February, 2014)

Punjab Government organized the Progressive Punjab agriculture summit 2014 at Fateh Burj Banda Singh Bahadur War Memorial, Chappar Chiri, Mohali, near Chandigarh from 16th to 19th February, 2014.

The summit was organized to create awareness regarding latest technologies/development in the field of Agroforestry/Agriculture. This summit was an event related to Agro-technology and Business and also an exposure on globalization of agro-tech business. Production and marketing of agroforestry produces was also focused in the summit. More than 300 reputed national and international companies/exhibitors participated in the summit and disseminated their technologies to different stakeholders. In addition, more than one lakh visitors comprising of farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, faculty, students and other stakeholders from across the country participated in the summit. The progressive Punjab Agriculture Summit 2014 became a showcase of latest innovations and new technologies and offered opportunities for broad spectrum agro-tech business. Besides, the summit it brought different stakeholders on a common platform to discuss the various issues related to production of agroforestry products and establishment of marketing network globally.

The Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, a pioneer in institute in the field of forestry research also participated in the Progressive Punjab agriculture summit 2014. The stall of FRI aimed at dissemination of technologies through displays on agroforestry and its products including herbal material extracted from medicinal plants. The processed wood of *Lantana* weed and its product like stool and board developed by the institute were also the attraction of the people. About 4000 visitors comprising of farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, faculty, students and other stakeholders from across the country visited the stall of FRI to look at the posters and other displays on forestry, agroforestry, medicinal plants and other research & extension activities of the institute . Out of these, 480 farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, students and other stakeholders showed keen interest in forestry, agroforestry, medicinal plants. They also marked their views in visitor diary. Some of the frequently queries from visitors are listed below:

1. Most farmers asked about complete details of cultivation of medicinal plants which are suitable for Punjab state. The production and marketing issues of some medicinal species viz. Ashwagandha, Satavar, Safed musli, Stevia, Sargandha, etc. were raised by the visitors. They were seen keen to know the economic returns from medicinal plants.
2. A majority of visitors showed the interest in knowledge of utilization of medicinal plants in relation to different diseases like Arthritis, diabetics, Blood Pressure, Cold, General vitality of body etc.
3. The farmers asked about intercropping in poplar and Eucalyptus plantation. They were interested to know new clones of Poplar, Shishem, Melia, Eucalyptus, developed by FRI, Dehradun.
4. Some farmers of, Punjab, Maharashtra and other States desired to take training of cultivation of medicinal plants under Agroforestry, Nursery Techniques, and Mushroom suitable for their regions.

The participation of FRI in the Progressive Punjab Summit 2014 was the vision of our Director Dr. P.P. Bhojvaid. The aim was to showcase the recent technologies and research, developed by the FRI in the field of Agroforestry.

The entire event was perfectly and successfully executed by the team comprising of Dr. P. P. Bhojvaid, Director, FRI, Dehradun, Shri Arun Singh Rawat, Head, Silviculture Division, Shri Sandeep Kujur, Head, Extension Division, Dr. Ombir Singh, Scientist-D, Dr. P. S. Rawat, Scientist-D, Shri Surendra Rautela, Forest Range Officer and Ajay Gulati, Research Assistant–I. The feedback received from the stakeholders indicates that trainings and awareness programmes at grass root level are effective extension tools of dissemination and adoption of technologies in the field of agroforestry.

Glimpses of the Progressive Punjab Agriculture Summit-2014













