

XVIth Research Advisory Group Meeting

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

(14th November, 2014)

With a view to promote better coordination and to infuse utility oriented forestry research input and also to advise the Director of the Institute in the matter of formulating and planning of the various research activities so as to face the challenging needs in the sector of forestry research, **Research Advisory Group (RAG)** for the Institute was approved by the Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun.

In view of the mandate of RAG, which mainly revolves around giving directions and bringing innovations in the forestry research to be carried out, the Annual Research Advisory Group Meeting of HFRI, Shimla was held on **14th November, 2014** in the Conference Hall of the institute. The meeting provided an opportunity not only to review the progress of ongoing projects, examination, prioritization of new research proposals but also to take maximum benefits of the expertise of Hon'ble RAG Members on various research issues.

At the outset, **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research**, of the institute initiated the day's proceedings. **Dr. VP Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla** welcomed the Hon'ble RAG members and gave a brief presentation about the constitution of RAG, its mandate, a brief introduction about HFRI and various research activities and achievements of the institute, which was followed by briefing up of the process to be adopted for scoring the new projects put up before the RAG for recommendations to **Research Policy Committee of ICFRE** for final approval.

Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (RP) and Dr. S.P.S. Rawat, ADG (M&E), ICFRE, attended the meeting through Video Conferencing **from ICFRE headquarters**.

Sh. Surinder Kumar, IFS, APCCF (Management, HPSFD, Prof. GS Shamet, Dean, College of Forestry, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni; Dr. Maninderjeet Kaur, Member Secretary, Himalayan Research Group, Umesh Bhawan, Shimla; Shri Nand Lal Sharma, Proprietor, Nanda Herbals, Village Mansari, Kullu; Sh Mela Ram Sharma, Progressive Farmer, Village Dandibag, Shimla; Dr. Jagdish Kumar, Principal Scientist & Scientist Incharge, IARI, Regional Station, Shimla; Dr. SS Samant, Scientist Incharge, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kullu Unit, MOHAL, Kullu; Dr. RS Minhas, Chairman, HIMOARD, Khaneri (Rampur) Shimla and Sh. OP Solaniki, Director, Forest Training Institute, Chail, Solan were the other members of RAG, who participated in the deliberations.

Dr. VRR Singh, APCCF (FCA) from HPSFD attended the meeting on behalf of PCCF, HPSFD, who could not participate at the last moment due to some unavoidable circumstances. In his address, Dr. Singh, made an earnest request to all the Hon'ble members of RAG and others present to give the best of their input so that the financial,

human and physical resources be utilized in the best possible way. While talking on the research agenda, he exhorted upon the scientists that the issues like Climate Change, which is likely to stress all the forest ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, genetic improvement should be given their due. He further informed that the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has prepared a Policy on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Himachal Pradesh, which will play an important role in conserving and protecting the natural resources for sustained production of ecosystem services. The institute must also contribute on this line. Small-2 efforts made in the directions can contribute a lot towards the research efforts, he added.

After this, there was an institutional presentation, which revolved around the research and extension activities as carried out by the institute during the year. **06 new research proposals** under different themes and thrust areas were presented before the Hon'ble members. These proposals were agreed to in principle with some modifications suggested wherever appropriate and were recommended for consideration of the Research Policy Committee.

In addition to the above, the research proposals, as approved by the 15th RPC and were kept in shelf, were also placed before the Hon'ble members. Besides, the progress of the ongoing research projects as well as those of external funding agencies were presented and discussed. All the members present in the meeting showed satisfaction on the progress made under these projects. Apart from this, **02 ongoing research projects** were discussed for extension for a period of one year within the already approved budget while in **01 ongoing research projects**, the area under study was recommended to be reduced, which was accepted by the house for further acceptance by the RPC.

At the end of the day, Director HFRI thanked all the members of the RAG for smooth conduct of the meeting during wrap up session.

SOME CLIPPINGS OF THE MEETING






