

# XV Research Advisory Group Meeting

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

(20<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)

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 had been proposed by the Director HFRI, Shimla as per the guidelines, which was finally approved by the Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun. In fact, different stakeholders have been involved with a view to make use of the available resources more judiciously especially on the applied forestry research projects.

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 **20<sup>th</sup> November, 2013** in the Conference Hall of the institute. The meeting, in fact, provided an opportunity to be utilized to the fullest, not only in terms of review of 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.

The following **Research Advisory Group (RAG)** was approved for the Institute by the Director General, *ICFRE*

S.No.	Name	Designation	Address
<b>A]. Chairman:</b>			
1.	Dr. VRR Singh, IFS	Director	Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghati, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2626778 (O) 9418901959 (M) <b>Email:</b> dir_hfri@icfre.org
<b>B]. PCCF of the mandated States i.e. Jammu &amp; Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh:</b>			
1.	Sh. RK Gupta, IFS	PCCF & HoFF	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department Talland, SHIMLA-1 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2623155 (O) 094180-24264 (M) <b>Email:</b> pccf_hp@nic.in
2	Sh. Abhay Kumar, IFS	PCCF & HoFF	Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, SRINAGAR <b>Phone:</b> 0191-2547276 (O)
<b>C]. Representative of Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun:</b>			
1.	Dr. Vimal Kothiyal	ADG (RP)	ADG (RP) & Scientist-G ICFRE, Dehradun Phone: 0135-2753290 (O) 094129-88641(M) <b>Email:</b> adg_rp@icfre.org

<b>D].</b>	<b>Scientists of Various Levels Within the Institute:</b>		
1.	Dr. Dr. Ranjeet Singh	Scientist-F	Forest Protection Division Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghathi, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2816107 (O) 94181-59199 (M) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:singhr@icfre.org">singhr@icfre.org</a>
2.	Dr. Jagdish Singh	Scientist-E	Agro-forestry & Extension Division Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghathi, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2816112 (O) 94180-71421 (M) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:singhj@icfre.org">singhj@icfre.org</a>
3.	Dr. Vaneet Jishtu	Scientist-C	Non-Wood Forest Products Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghathi, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2816125 (O) 94180-54070 (M) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jishtuv@icfre.org">jishtuv@icfre.org</a>
<b>E].</b>	<b>Foresters of the Institute:</b>		
1.	Sh. SS Kataik, IFS	DCF	Head, NWFP Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghathi, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2626802 (O) 94181-42143 (M) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kataikss@icfre.org">kataikss@icfre.org</a>
2.	Sh. GS Thakur, IFS	DCF	Head, Participatory Forest Management Division Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Conifer Campus, Panthaghathi, Shimla – 171 009 <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2816135 (O) 94180-51414 (M) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:gstha22@gmail.com">gstha22@gmail.com</a>
<b>F].</b>	<b>Scientist from the Forestry University Imparting Education in Forestry:</b>		
1.	Prof. GS Shamet	Dean	Dean, College of Forestry, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan-173 230 <b>Phone:</b> 1792-252270 (O) 94180-52235 (M)
<b>G].</b>	<b>Representatives of the Funding Organizations:</b>		
1.	Dr. Akhilesh Gupta	Advisor & Head	Climate Change Division, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016 <b>Phone:</b> 011-26590241(O) 098104-22249(M)
2.	Dr. Ravi Prakash	Registrar	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Right Authorities (PPV&FRA), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opposite Todapur Village, New Delhi -110012 <b>Phone:</b> 011-25840777(O) 25842846 (O)

<b>H].</b>	<b>Representative of Prominent NGOs in the Field of Forestry :</b>		
1.	Dr. Lal Singh	Director	Himalayan Research Group Umesh Bhawan, Chotta Shimla, SHIMLA-171 002 <b>Phone:</b> 0177 - 2626820 (O) 098160-26820 (M)
<b>I].</b>	<b>Representative of Forest Based Industries:</b>		
1.	Shri Narender Mohan Gupta	Proprietor	Manohar Timber & Allied Industries, Village & Post Office. Haripur, Tehsil Manali, District Kullu (H.P.) <b>Phone:</b> 098160-72271 (M)
<b>J].</b>	<b>Eminent Foresters outside ICFRE:</b>		
1.	Sh. VK Tiwari, IFS	CEO	<b>Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.</b> <b>Uttam Bhawan, Near 103 Tunnel</b> <b>Shimla – 171 004</b> Phone: 0177-2658397 (O) 094184-59606 (M)
<b>K].</b>	<b>Eminent Scientists outside ICFRE:</b>		
1.	Prof. (Retd.) TN Lakhanpal	Ex-Professor Emiritus	Sai Sadan, Panthaghati, Distt. Shimla – 171009(HP) <b>Phone: 098162-64141 (M)</b>
<b>L].</b>	<b>Representative of Progressive Farmers:</b>		
1.	Shri Gopal Mehta	VFDC	Village Halyana, P.O. Shamathala Tehsil Kumarsain, District SHIMLA <b>Phone:</b> 94181-10660
<b>M].</b>	Representative of ICAR Research Institute:		
1.	Dr. J.C. Rana	<b>Principal Scientist</b>	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Phagli, Distt. Shimla – 171 001 (HP) <b>Phone:</b> 0177-2835453 (O) 09418104185 (M)
<b>N].</b>	<b>Heads of State Forest Research Organizations of the concerned / mandated states:</b>		
1.	Sh. Upendra Panchnanda, IFS	Director	State Forest Research Institute Janipur, JAMMU-180 001 (J&K) <b>Phone:</b> 0191-2538151 (O) 094191-13264 (M)
2.	Dr. Arvind Alipuria, IFS	APCCF (Floral Diversity, NTFP & Res. Mgmt.)	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department Karnodi, Sunder Nagar, District Mandi (H.P.) <b>Phone:</b> 01907-264113 (O) 094180-25036 (M)
<b>O].</b>	<b>Representatives of the Sister Organizations:</b>		
1.	Dr. SS Samant	Scientist Incharge	GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development KULLU UNIT MOHAL, Distt. Kullu (HP) <b>Phone:</b> 01902-225329 (O) 9816316318 (M)
<b>P].</b>	<b>Representative of JFM / Local Government/ Grassroots level Organization:</b>		
1.	Shri Sandeep Rana	Joint Director	Himachal Pradesh Eco-Development (HPFD) Society Holta, Palampur, District Kangra (H.P.)
<b>Q].</b>	<b>Special Invitee:</b>		
1.	Dr. Savita, IFS	APPCF	HPSFD, Shimla (HP)
2.	Dr. HK Gupta, IFS	Joint Member Secretary	State Council of Science, Technology & Environment, SDA Complex, Kasumpatti, Shimla – 171 009 (HP) <b>Phone:</b> 01902-225329 (O) 98163-16318 (M)

3.	Dr. Shanti Sharma	Professor	Deptt. of Bio-sciences, HPU, Shimla -171 005 <b>Phone:</b> 94182-32910 (M)
<b>RJ.</b>	<b>Group Coordinator Research:</b>		
1.	Dr. KS Kapoor	Group Coordinator Research	HFRI, SHIMLA

At the outset, **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research**, of the institute initiated the day's proceedings and thereafter, respectfully invited **Dr. VRR Singh, IFS, Director, HFRI, Shimla** for a welcome address of Hon'ble RAG members. **Dr Singh** gave a brief introduction on the various research activities of HFRI 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), ICFRE** and the nominee of worthy DG, ICFRE in his address emphasized that the proposed budget & staff of the new research proposals is essentially required to be curtailed. He also emphasized about sharing of the research support staff by the PIs.

**Dr. Lalit Mohan, PCCF (Wild-life) and Chief Guest** of the meeting, in his address 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 Draft 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.

In the end of his address A booklet titled **“Kalatop Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary Chamba, Himachal Pradesh : An Appraisal to its Plant Diversity”** by Dr. RK Verma & Dr. KS Kapoor was also released by the Chief Guest **Dr. Lalit Mohan IFS**.

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 and all of them were agreed to in principle with some modifications suggested wherever appropriate and were recommended to the Research Policy Committee.

In addition to the above, the ongoing research projects under PLAN were presented and discussed. All the members present in the meeting showed satisfaction on the progress made. Besides, **02 ongoing research projects** were discussed for extension for a period of one year within the already approved budget, 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.*

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## ***SOME CLIPPINGS OF THE MEETING***





