

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND RESEARCH INTERVENTIONS FOR ENHANCING FOREST PRODUCTIVITY

**A TRAINING PROGRAMME ORGANIZED AT
FOREST TRAINING INSTITUTE, SUNDERNAGAR, DISTT. MANDI (HP)**

(20. 03.2013)

With the establishment of **Van Vigyan Kendras (VVKs)** and **Demo Villages**, each of the regional research institutes of Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun also started organizing specific and technology based trainings for the stakeholders in their respective mandated states. Accordingly, the institute started utilizing this platform also to broad base its presence amongst the end users thereby, enabling the council in general and the research institutes in particular to come up to the expectations of the end users/ people.

Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla organized a one day training on “**Application of Technological and Research Interventions for Enhancing Forest Productivity**” on 20.03.2013 at **Forest Training Institute (FTI), Sundernagar**, which was attended by about 35 field functionaries of the State Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh. In fact, aim of the training programme was to apprise the participants about the recent advances in the field of forestry, their applicability and use in the field for the benefit of society at large.

Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta, IFS, Director of FTI, Sundernagar, inaugurated the training programme and was the Chief Guest during the occasion. In his inaugural address, Sh. Gupta, highlighted the importance of such training programmes and also appreciated the efforts of HFRI, Shimla for coming closer to the end users through research findings and also through interactions directly benefiting the field functionaries and the communities as well.

After inauguration, **Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist** and Coordinator of the training programme highlighted the research activities of the institute, its research endeavors and extension activities to disseminate the findings to the end users. Followed by this institutional introduction, **Dr. Pawan Rana Scientist** delivered a talk on the insect-pests of forestry species with special reference to their importance in the field forestry. Both beneficial and harmful effects of the insects besides, their control measures and productivity aspect of the same were discussed at length by him. One should go in for eco-friendly measures instead of plunging directly into the chemical measures, he added. For the benefit of the field functionaries with reference to their field utility, **Dr. A. Rajasekaran Scientist** deliberated upon the application and importance of Geographical Information System (GIS) and GPS in forestry. The scientist highlighted the importance of these modern tools with special reference to the demarcation of forest boundaries, location of plus trees and populations, in tracking wild life etc. and exhorted upon the field functionaries of the State Forest Department to know and use these technologies for keeping pace with modern trends/ tools in the forestry sector.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist delivered a talk on **Genetic Improvement in Forestry Sector**. During his detailed talk supported by the scientific findings of his work, he emphasized upon the importance of selection of Plus trees, Seed Production Areas (SPAs), seed orchards and Vegetative Multiplication Garden (VMG) and application of bio-technological tools like isozymes and DNA markers to study genetic variations in forestry in general and conifers in particular. Such tools are now becoming in-things in forestry, he further added.

Dr. KS Kapoor, Group coordinator Research of the institute through his presentation which revolved around **Potential Trees, Shrubs and their Management for Re-vegetation of the Waste Lands**, deliberated at length the proper identification of the trees for carrying out their plantation in the specified agro-climatic zones. He further highlighted the importance of participatory approach with the people around for maintaining sustainability in the efforts with special reference to the state of Himachal Pradesh. He also highlighted the significance of fragile ecology of Himalayan Ecosystem and the need for its conservation in view of the changed climatic scenario witnessed in the recent past followed by the degradation in Himalayan Eco System.

In the concluding session which was presided over by **Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta, IFS Director FTI**, Sundernagar, views of the trainees were sought again and discussions were held on their input accordingly. In-fact, views of the participants echoed in unison while discussing about the importance of these trainings. In the end Chairperson again appreciated the efforts of the institute for imparting this training to the field functionaries and suggested to include trainings on nursery and field plantations of the important species of the Himalayan region and impressed upon the field functionaries that they should go back to their respective ranges / beats with a specific zeal and with complete involvement in the profession.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma on behalf of Director, HFRI, extended a special vote of thanks to the Forest Department in general and Forest Training Institute, Sundernagar in particular for all the help during the training programme.

Some Moments Captured during Training Programme at FTI, Sundernagar.



