

**VISIT OF WORTHY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ICFRE, DEHRADUN  
TO  
HFRI SHIMLA**

**Sh. Kantharaj Judesekar, IFS, Director General**, *Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)*, Dehra Dun, made his maiden visit to **Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI)**, Shimla on **19.09.2013 to 20.09.2013** to review its ongoing research activities and other related works of the institute.

On his arrival, **Dr. VRR Singh, IFS Director**, HFRI alongwith the scientists, officers and staff formally and warmly welcomed him in Himachali traditions/ customs to the institute. He introduced the Director General and added that **Sh. Judesekar** is a senior most officer of *Indian Forest Services* of 1976 batch and is also holding the important & coveted post of Director General Forests and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Further he added that this occasion becomes more significant as his presence here in this very hall is a matter of great honour to the institute as well in view of the fact that he has been given the additional responsibility by the Govt. of India to look into the affairs of *Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education*, Dehradun as its **Director General** and this institute being one of the regional institute of the council is his Host for the visit. He thanked him for being here as Head of this Organization in spite of his tight schedule at New Delhi.

Director, HFRI, Shimla explained history of HFRI right from its inception as **High Level Conifer Regeneration Research Centre** during May, 1977 to till date. Director, HFRI in his representation threw light on the aims, objectives and thrust areas of the Institute. Some of the main thrust areas of the Institutes he highlighted, included development of nursery techniques for getting quality planting stock for rehabilitation of degraded forests, identification of sources of quality planting materials and establishment of seed orchards, eco-rehabilitation of cold deserts, rehabilitation of mined areas, development of integrated pest and disease management, in situ conservation of NWFPs, agro forestry in the lower hills and creation of conservation awareness and dissemination of research findings to various target groups. The Institute has been set up with specific goal of contributing research inputs for long-term conservation of north-western Himalayan Forests and Ecosystems, he added.

Besides research, extension and training activities of the institute to keep the front line staff of the State Forest Departments and other end users abreast of the underlying concepts and research developments in forestry finally pointing towards sustainable development were also highlighted by Dr. Singh. He briefly explained

the establishment of **Van Vigyan Kendra (VVKs)** and **Model Village** in collaboration with the state forest department of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. He also mentioned about the **Field Research Stations** as established by the institute in different agro climatic zones of the mandated states. The role and responsibilities of the institute were also explained before the worthy DG, ICFRE. In the end, he thanked Sh. Judesekar and said that his gracious presence here certainly shows his deep concern and commitment for multi-farious research activities aiming at conservation and management strategies in the forests and forestry resources in general and those of Western Himalayas in particular.

Once, Director, HFRI, finished with his welcome address, **Sh. Judesekar Sahib** before making his address, for the benefit of hill communities in general and the end users in particular released an **Institutional Brochure** and a book on the **Spiders of Western Himalayas : A Pictorial Field Guide** as compiled by the scientists of the institute. During his speech, he stressed for making collaborative efforts between the State Forest Departments and the institute for effective implementation and dissemination of the technologies and the outcome of the result as obtained by the institute in its history. He vehemently appreciated the staff of the institute and their contribution towards of the cause of forestry research.

During his visit he was also accompanied by **Sh. RK Gupta, IFS, PCCF, SFDHP** and Head of Forest Force, Himachal Pradesh; Dr. Sanjeeva Pandey, IFS, APCCF; Sh. SS Negi, IFS, APCCF; Sh. Amar Chand, IFS, APCCF; Sh. Sanjay Sood, IFS, CF, Shimla and Sh. RK Gupta, IFS, CF, Nahan. Divisional Forest Officers of Shimla and Solan Forest Divisions also accompanied him.

It may specifically be mentioned over here that during his visit, **Sh. K. Judesekar, IFS**, Director General of Forests-cum-Special Secretary, MoEF, GoI, New Delhi & Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun also gave a courtesy call to **Raja Virbhadra Singh** Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and **Sh. Thakur Singh Bharmouri**, Hon'ble Forest Minister, Himachal Pradesh. During his meeting, he discussed the issues pertaining to the forestry in the state and collaborative research with regional institute of Council as well.

After his visit, the official of the institute gave him the warm sendoff with a request to visit the institute again.

\*\*\*\*\*









