

**VISIT OF BHUTANESE DELEGATION
TO
HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA
(6th December, 2013)**

A 12 member delegation comprising of Senior Officers and coming from various departments of the Royal Govt. of Bhutan visited Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla and had detailed discussions on various research issues of common interests with the officers and scientists of the institute on 6th December, 2013. This visit was coordinated by **Inter-national Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal** in consultation with the **Dr. VRR Singh, IFS, Director, HFRI, Shimla.** The delegation was lead by **Dr. Uma Pratap** from ICIMOD.

During the visit, an institutional presentation on the salient features encompassing the thrust areas, achievements made in the past, ongoing research activities including future agenda of the institute was made by **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** of the institute.

Institutional presentation was followed by discussions on the related issues. The discussion was initiated by **Director, HFRI, Shimla.** The discussion mainly revolved around the vulnerability of Himalayan Ecosystems especially due to mining and other ecological disasters, ecological shift of the plant species, insect-pests and disease incidences, climate change, Watershed management, including Sustainable Management of High altitude medicinal plants. The extension activities with special reference to establishment of **Model Village and Van Vigyan Kendras** also came up during the discussion.

The team was also apprised of the ongoing research activities of various research divisions of the institute during their visit to the research laboratories. The team in general showed keen interest in the institutional agenda and it was underlined that Bhutan has many research issues in common with HFRI, Shimla.

In the end, **Team Leader, Dr. Uma Pratap** appreciated the efforts of the institute for its multifaceted research activities and hoped that the lessons learnt by the team during their visit to the institute will be brought into practice when the team will be back home. Finally, she thanked the Director, HFRI and his dedicated team of scientific and technical professionals.

SOME CLIPPING OF THE VISIT





