

**Second Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database
for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at EDUSAT Command Room,
Bhopal on 11th August 2015**

'National Bamboo Database Web Portal / Software has been developed by Bamboo Technical Support Group – Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (BTSG – ICFRE), Dehra Dun, as per requirements of NABM, for taking stock of the bamboo resource of India through collection, collation and management of information in the digital format. The web portal was launched for pilot testing on 25th March 2015. Division Level Workers (DLUs) – the Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) of the State Forest Departments or their equivalent Nodal Persons of other Departments of the States implementing National Agro-forestry & Bamboo Mission (NABM) erstwhile National Bamboo Mission (NBM) have to provide the information on bamboo resources, through their respective State Mission Directors (SMDs) as per forms available in the software. Hitherto more than 450 IDs have created.

As per the Annual Action Plan of BTSG – ICFRE for the year 2015-16, training workshops are being organized for capacity building and human resource development (HRD). The first 'Training Workshop on National Bamboo Database Web portal/software usage' for sensitization and familiarization of SMDs was held on 01st July 2015 at Van Vigyan Bhawan, RK Puram, Sector - V, New Delhi.

The second Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan was held at EDUSAT Command Room, Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department, 74-Bungalows, Khel Parisar, Bhopal on 11th August 2015. Shri Jitendra Agarwal, PCCF (Madhya Pradesh) Chaired this one day's event. Apart from Shri Agarwal Dr AK Bhattacharya, Additional PCCF and State Mission Director (NABM), Madhya Pradesh and Dr TP Subramony, Director of INBAR Office in India and Regional Coordinator for South Asia, participated in the workshop. Participants included Divisional Level Users (DLUs) from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Apart from this, Division Level Users from about 26 EDUSAT Eco Centres from the length and breadth of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department participated through video conferencing with the Command Room – the venue of the workshop in Bhopal. More than five participants were present at each centre through video conferencing.

For the convenience of participants and with a view to make the most of the subject matter, the training workshop was divided into sessions as follows:

Session – 1

- Welcome address by Dr GS Goraya, DDG (R), ICFRE cum Project Leader BTSG – ICFRE.
- Opening Remarks by Dr AK Bhattacharya.

Session – 2

- Presentation by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (RP), ICFRE / BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun on Web Portal / Database (basic information flow and structure)

Session – 3

- Presentation on Web portal of National Bamboo Database (Working of Web Portal/database functioning and Data Entry Formats) by Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant, (Bamboo Web Portal) BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun.

Session – 4

- Training Session on Web Portal /Database

Session – 5

- Question hour Session

Dr GS Goraya gave a brief account of the conceptualization leading to the development of this software. He apprised that this information on the bamboo resource (about 47 species), under plantations and natural forests, with regard to area, flowering, harvest, uses, etc. would be used to improve the resource and to give a fillip to the bamboo sector. Dr Vimal Kothiyal presented a bird's eye view of the workshop; he also informed that almost all the suggestions/recommendations of the first workshop held at New Delhi on 01st July 2015 have been incorporated in the web portal.

Shri Jitendra Agarwal, PCCF (Madhya Pradesh) spoke about bamboo resource of the State, he stressed on the collection of actual information. Shri Agarwal took keen interest in the day long proceedings and offered some valuable suggestion to make this web portal more user-friendly.

Dr AK Bhattacharya, Additional PCCF and State Mission Director (NABM) thanked the Chair for his keen interest in the workshop. He hoped that this software would also work as a management tool for the stakeholders.

Dr TP Subramony appreciated this knowledge database of bamboos. He informed the house about the INBAR initiative 'Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan' (GABAR) and wished linkage between GABAR and NBD.

While making a Power Point presentation Dr Kothiyal explained the overall structure and functions of the software and stressed on the important points to be borne in mind while operating the software. He described that the BTSG-ICFRE has made all possible efforts to make this software user friendly, and BTSG-ICFRE's efforts are still afoot to further refine it to make it more user friendly, hence these training workshops to interact with SMDs and Division Level Users to know their problems and to seek their views / suggestions / recommendations, etc., while building up their capacity to properly use this product. He informed the house that this software can even be accessed and operated through a smart phone. He however also cautioned that data entry in formats and uploading them through mobile phone may be avoided as the browsers used in the mobile phones may not be compatible and there may be loss of data / information. He also explained the following three layered structure of the Web Portal: BTSG – ICFRE & NBM (Administrators) → State Mission Directors (SMDs) → Division Level Users (DFOs)

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal) under BTSG – ICFRE also made a Power Point presentation on the working of the software. One by one all formats were displayed by him for discussion in the house and with the Division Level Users present in the Eco Centres.

BTSG – ICFRE was represented by Dr GS Goraya, DDG (R), ICFRE cum Project Leader BTSG-ICFRE, Dr Vimal Kothiyal ADG (RP), Shri SS Jain, Consultant (Bamboo Plantation), Shri AD Dobhal, Consultant (Bamboo Handicraft/Marketing) and Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal).

Photographs of the third Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at FRI, Dehra Dun on 25th August 2015



