7th Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam on 11th and 12th February 2016

Seventh Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DLUs) generally Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), or their equivalents from other departments, from Northeastern State namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur Mizoram and Tripura was conducted at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat – a regional Institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. 11th February 2016 was meant for imparting training to the participants from Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura while on 12th February 2016 DLUs from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram underwent this training. Participating DFOs also went around RFRI Campus.

Participants from Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura were scheduled to undergo this training on 11th February 2016. 20 participants including 13 DLUs from Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland were present participants from Tripura could not attend this training.
On 12th February 2016, 30 participants including 18 DLUs from Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim attended the training. Proceedings of the second day began with formal inauguration by Dr. RSC Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat who had since returned from tour. Dr. Jayaraj spoke on various aspects of bamboo resource, NABM, BTSG-ICFRE and National Bamboo Database web portal in nutshell. After this Dr. Kothiyal initiated the proceedings of the day.

For the convenience of participants and with a view to make the most the training workshop was divided into following sessions:

Session – 1: Welcome address

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. Kothiyal explained the structure and work flow of the software through a PowerPoint Presentation. Participants were informed that bamboo resource information of the whole Division/State/Country irrespective of schemes and funding agencies has to be included in the forms. He also explained that this software works on the following three tiered structure:

BTSG – ICFRE & NBM (Administrators)

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State Mission Directors (SMDs)

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Division Level Users (DFOs)

While dealing with step by step methodology for using this software Dr. Kothiyal explained to the participating Division Level Users that after filling all the forms, they will send the forms to the State Mission Director, but before sending it to the SMD the DLU must ensure that forms have been filled in properly and factual information is entered, auto-check has been provided in the software to alert DLU to this effect. And prior to sending the properly filled in forms to the SMD, he would have to ask SMD to activate the **Send** button to enable him to transmit the data. SMD will check the forms; if SMD finds data in order then he would forward it with his remarks to Admin. (BTSG-ICFRE or NABM) after answering the mandatory queries of auto-check provision, SMD will, however, request 'Admin' to activate his **Send** before forwarding the data forms. In case SMD finds forms not properly filled in or genuineness of data he would send it back to the DLU with his remarks.

Dr. Kothiyal dealt with the role and function of the web portal at each level. He also explained the procedure for creating the users at all the three levels and their approval procedure. Data entry formats were also discussed as well as the precautions required to be taken while entering the data. Other features of the web portal which are yet to be introduced were also discussed. Participants were told about operation of software and operation manual; how to fill up excel forms; query generation; use of suggestion box for offering suggestion and in case of confusion or problem; frequently asked questions (FAQs), etc. It was informed that till that date 179 forms had been filled up but no information has gone to the permanent database, this information is on real time basis. BTSG-ICFRE looks ahead to transmit properly filled in and complete in all respect approved forms to the permanent database by 31st March 2016. Importance of the information available in the database to different levels of bamboo stakeholders and general public was also explained.

Participants were advised to access this web portal/software through browsers such as **Mozilla Firefox** or **Google Chrome** only, if they don't have these browsers they may download them easily and free of cost. This software cannot be accessed through Windows Explorer.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal) under BTSG – ICFRE made a PowerPoint presentation on functioning and data input into the software. One by one all formats were displayed for point to point discussion in the house.

Hands on training session was also conducted simultaneously, which proved to be quite useful as participating DLUs took keen interest in general operation of software, creation of division level IDs, filling up of formats, using correct units, forwarding filled in formats to the SMD, correction of data, etc. This part of training to the DLUs was imparted on one to one basis. IDs were created for the DLUs of different States who did not have account. Some very useful

inputs came up during this training, which have been incorporated in the web portal. A total of 582 IDs have been created and approved so far.

Both of the workshops ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal to all the participants for actively participating in workshop and providing their value time. Participants also thanked the organizers for short but helpful workshop.

BTSG-ICFRE puts on record its thankful acknowledgment to Dr. RSC Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat for excellent facilities. Overall support rendered in successful organization of this training programme by Shri RK Kalita, Scientist – E, Shri Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist – C, Shri Bibhuti Deka, Research Officer and Shri Arvind Deka, Technical Assistant, RFRI, Jorhat and their team members is also gratefully acknowledged.

Photographs of the 7th Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam on 11th and 12th February 2016