

Proceedings of the XVI Research Advisory Group Meeting 18th - 19th November 2014 at Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi

The XVI - RAG Meeting was held in the Conference Room at IFP Headquarters at Lalgutwa Campus on 18th & 19th November 2014. It was graced by the Chief Guest Dr. D. K. Srivastava, IFS, PCCF, SFD, Jharkhand and chaired by Dr. Shamin Akhtar Ansari, Director, IFP, Ranchi.

The other dignitaries who graced the occasion with their valued presence included Dr. Jamaluddin, CSIR-Emeritus Scientist, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi, Dr. Meenakshi Munshi, Director, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, Sh. K. P. Pandey, IFS, Addl. PCCF (Research & Training), Jharkhand, Sh. L. R. Singh, IFS, CCF (Research), Jharkhand, Sh. Dinesh Kumar, Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand, Sh. B. D. Bhagat, Retd. PCCF, Jharkhand, Dr. M. S. Mallik, Head Silviculture, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Sri Roshan Lal Sharma, Director, Tajna Shellac Private Limited, Ranchi, Sh. Sharat Singh, SPWD, Ranchi and Sh. Barnbas Nag, Grassroot worker & Progressive Farmer, Ranchi.

The dignitaries to join the RAG meeting via video conferencing included Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (Education & Policy Research), ICFRE, Dehradun and Dr. H. S. Ginwal, Scientist & Head, Genetics & Tree Propagation, FRI, Dehradun.

In the inaugural session, Dr. Ansari welcomed the Research Advisory Group (RAG) members to the XVI RAG Meeting. He briefed the house about the process of formulation of projects in the institute starting from its inception as concept note, recommendation by the RAG and ultimately approval by the RPC, 2015 at ICFRE, Dehradun. The thrust areas of research and the core competency areas of the institute were also discussed by him. Dr. Sharad Tiwari, Scientist -E, IFP Ranchi presented the overview of the activities being carried out by the Institute along with the significant findings of ongoing and recently concluded research projects. The new projects were focused towards the two thrust areas, i.e. Managing Forests and Forests Products for Livelihood Support & Economic Growth and Forest Genetic Resource Management and Tree Improvement. The members were apprised of the functions of RAG, concept of rolling plan and the system of allotting marks to new research proposals. The current research, education and extension activities of the Institute besides the achievements, future programmes and extension plans of the Institute were also highlighted during the meeting.

The Chief Guest in his inaugural address proposed that the research results be regularly brought out for benefit of stakeholders including SFDs, progressive farmers and NGOs. He stressed strong connect between the institution and public domain. He called for convergence and holistic development approach involving forestry and agricultural species towards developing research projects and their implementation. He suggested for elaborate work on NTFPs as Jharkhand is home to numerous NTFPs. He called for creation of a consortium of research and educational organizations viz. Birsa

Agricultural University, Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Central Tassar Research & Training Institute, Ranchi University, Central University of Jharkhand in Ranchi with IFP playing a pivotal role to identify the areas of research in NTFPs. He desired that the Institute should develop better package of practices to be taken to farmers and fields. Six sectors of NTFPs were emphasized viz. silk, tassar, bamboo, honey, oilseeds and lac. He recommended organizing workshops, training programmes for farmers and SFDs of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal for which financial support and cooperation would be provided by his department.

The house accepted the feasibility of cultivation of 'Agave' (*Agave sisalana*) in bunds and hedges of Jharkhand which also grows on barren and fallow land. The fibre of this plant is imported from Africa due to its water resistant property. The gestation period of this plant is four years only which would be ideal to give the farmers short term return on the crop. It was proposed to distribute bulbils of Agave free of cost among the farmers for raising the plantation. Some sort of buy back guarantee could be given. The discussion further extended towards extraction of fibres from the leaves, the residual matter containing chlorophyll, cellulose and other organic matter that could be converted into vermicompost as an important source of bio-fertilizer.

Dr. Jamaluddin, CSIR-Emeritus Scientist motivated the young scientists and research scholars to be persistent with their research activities and pave way for new innovative technologies. Dr. Vinod Kumar, Scientist-F, Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi also recommended that the institute should formulate research projects whose results reflect direct positive impact on the society, farmers and tribals of the state. Sh. Roshan Lal Sharma, Director, Tajna Shellac Pvt Ltd. expressed concern at diminishing lac production and lac insect in Jharkhand in the past decade. He requested the institute to take up projects for finding out the cause of this debacle.

All the members gave their valuable suggestions for improvement of the research projects. The house authorized the Director, IFP to approve the projects where amendments were recommended by RAG and take final decision as per the recommendation. Four projects on shelf, which were approved in the proceedings of XV RPC, 2014 were unanimously revalidated by Hon'ble members of the RAG.

The XVI-RAG Meeting concluded with vote of thanks presented by Dr. A. K. Pandey, Scientist-F, and Head, Silviculture and NTFP Management Division of the Institute.

Glimpses of the RAG meeting



Dr. S.A. Ansari, Director welcoming the Chief Guest



Dignitaries lighting the lamp



Director addressing the meeting



RAG meeting in Session



RAG meeting in Session



Dignitaries at the XVI RAG 2014 meeting





