

## VISIT OF ICAR QRT TEAM TO IFP, RANCHI ON 26TH AUGUST, 2012

Dr D N Tewari, Chairman of QRT, along with other team members including Dr R N Mishra, former PCCF, CG, Dr S R Arya, former DDG ICFRE, Dr J P Mishra, Ex Dean, NDUAT, Faizabad and Dr S K Dhyani, Director, NRC, Jhansi visited the institute on 26th August and held an interactive meeting with the scientists of the institute. Shri A K Mishra, Additional PCCF, Jharkhand, was also present on the occasion.



Shri Rameswar Das, Director, IFP, Ranchi welcomed the distinguished guests with a bouquet. He then made a presentation on institutional activity, specially highlighting the initiatives taken up by the institute in the field of overall socio-economic upliftment of tribal villagers



with special emphasis on adoption of Lac cultivation by the forest fringe villagers using scientific and community based approach. Through the presentation, Director, IFP had very nicely conveyed the initiatives of institute to the distinguished guests by citing the examples of tribal villagers who are significantly benefitted by these initiatives. The introduction of Poplar in Agro-forestry in Vaishali district was presented in detail. All the team members including



honorable Chairman, Dr D N Tewari were very happy by the work of the institute and specially lauded the institute's effort in the overall upliftment of socio-economic status of tribal farmers. Dr Tewari even asked the Director, IFP to provide him more insight into the success story of the Agro-forestry output of the institute, so that he can cite these examples in support of his future strategy for promotion of Agro-forestry based policy approach.

Dr Tewari in his address to the house elaborated about the proposed Agro-forestry Mission in the XII<sup>th</sup> plan. He told the house that in the mission, there will be inter-institutional approach and IFP, Ranchi will be given due importance. Dr Tewari called for more focused approach of forestry to enhance the production of forest produces and over all socio-economic upliftment of the tribal villagers. He stated that such approach should address the rural poverty as most of the tribals are very poor.

Team members had lengthy discussion with Institutes' scientists on existing agro-forestry practices; the forestry species used in agro-forestry system, its merit and demerit and the need for introduction of new species with agro-forestry system. Dr

Tewari told the house that there is a proposal to include 20 main forestry species with the Agro-forestry system. The species like Kusum, Poplar, Bamboo, Kadam etc will be considered. He stressed upon inclusion of Kusum both as an important Lac host and as TBO (tree borne oilseeds) for its good oil content that is used for biodiesel. IFP, Ranchi is already working on these species.

Upon decreasing Lac production, Director, IFP, Ranchi addressed the causes of decreasing lac production in the state and need to promote Lac cultivation at regional as well as global level. Dr D N Tewari stressed upon the need of more efforts on Lac production in Jharkhand, as the state had once been the leading producer of Lac. He called for productivity enhancement of Lac through JFM for a better output. Dr Tewari also emphasized the need of a better marketing mechanism for forest products. He further added that our contribution should go beyond the production of forest produces towards its processing and value addition of NTFPs like Lac should be given importance.

Dr S K Dhyani told the house that since 1980, ICAR is implementing All India Coordinated Projects on Agro-forestry. He appreciated the efforts of IFP, Ranchi and said that efforts will be made to include IFP, Ranchi in XII<sup>th</sup> plan.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Director, IFP, Ranchi.

