

**Minutes of The Stake Holders' Liaison Meet Held at Conference Hall, Forest Research Centre, Hyderabad on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011**

**The following Officers/Scientists/ROs//RAs/SRF/JRF/PA/FA were present:**

1. Sri S. C. Joshi, IFS, Director, IWST, Bangalore
2. Sri M. Lokeswara Rao, IFS, Head, FRC, Hyderabad
3. Dr. B. N. Mohanty, IFS, GCR, IWST, Bangalore
4. Dr. D. Sudhakar, IFS, Chief General Manager, APFDC Ltd., Hyderabad
5. Dr. K. P. Srivasuki, IFS, AP Medicinal Plant Board, Hyderabad
6. Dr. B. V. Prasada Reddy, Addl. PCCF, Hyderabad
7. Dr. S. Siddiqui, Scientist In-charge, ZSI, Hyderabad
8. Dr. S. J. Rehman, Principal Scientist & Head, ANGRAU, Hyderabad
9. Dr. B. Joseph, Professor & Head, ANGRAU, Hyderabad
10. Dr. V. Balakrishna Reddy, Professor, NALSAR, Hyderabad
11. Dr. S. Hemalatha, Associate Professor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad
12. Dr. T. S. Dange, IFS, CF, FRC, Hyderabad
13. Sri D. Jaya Prasad, IFS, DCF, FRC, Hyderabad
14. Dr. N. Rama Rao, Scientist – F, FRC, Hyderabad
15. Dr. G. R. S. Reddy, Scientist – F, FRC, Hyderabad
16. Dr. Swapnendu Pattanaik, Scientist – D, FRC, Hyderabad
17. Dr. A. Ponnambalam, Scientist – C, FRC, Hyderabad
18. Sri M. B. Honnuri, Research Officer, FRC, Hyderabad
19. Sri N. R. Raveendra Prasad, Research Officer, FRC, Hyderabad
20. Sri C. M. Nagaraja Murthy, Assist. Lib. Grade – I, FRC, Hyderabad
21. Smt. R. Asha Kumari, Research Assist. Grade – I, FRC, Hyderabad
22. Sri Bhimi Ram, SRF, FRC, Hyderabad
23. Sri B. Jayaraju, JRF, FRC, Hyderabad
24. Sri B. Devender, Project Assistant, FRC, Hyderabad
25. Sri V. Ramu Naik, Field Assistant, FRC, Hyderabad
26. Sri K. Naveen Kumar, Project Assistant, FRC, Hyderabad
27. Sri D. Sadanandam, Field Assistant, FRC, Hyderabad
28. Sri D. Srinivas, Field Assistant, FRC, Hyderabad
29. Sri D. Krishna, Farmer, Bahadurpally, R. R. District
30. Sri B. Balanarsimha, Farmer, Bahadurpally, R. R. District

- Dr. T.S. Dange, Conservator of Forests, welcoming the Director, Group Coordinator (Research), IWST, Head, FRC and the dignitaries, introduced the delegates about the aims and objectives of the Stakeholders meeting as it is conducted every year to get the suggestions/recommendations for the future research needs at Forest Research Centre, Hyderabad and requested the Director, IWST to formally welcome the Stakeholders.
- Sri S.C. Joshi, Director, IWST, formally welcomed the Stakeholders from APFD, ANGRAU, APMPB, ZSI and farmers. He informed the gathering that the purpose of the meet is to prioritize the research projects and give research direction for Forest Research Centre in line with the needs and expectations of the Stakeholders. The Director asked the participants to introduce themselves to the house.

- Sri M. Lokeswara Rao, Head, FRC presented an overview of the research and extension activities taken up by FRC, Hyderabad. He gave a brief introduction about the physical resources and manpower of FRC, vision of ICFRE and mandate of FRC. He briefly presented about the ongoing research projects funded by ICFRE and other external funding agencies. This was followed by the presentation on achievements in the completed projects. Further, he briefly presented the consultancy projects undertaken, training programmes conducted, VVK training programmes, participation of workshops/seminars/symposia/trainings, publications, etc., by FRC.
- Discussion session followed and stakeholders were requested to give suggestions.
- Sri S.C. Joshi, Director, IWST, recalled the various suggestions *viz.*, soil nutrient management, bioremediation, phytoremediation of polluted water bodies, use of NTFP for insect pest control, database on Eastern Ghats species, problem specific agroforestry models, extension material preparation along with Forest Department etc. given by Stakeholders in the earlier meetings and stated their status. It was planned to hold this brain storming meeting quarterly but it remained an annual feature only though it was reviewed once in February, 2011. Therefore, he proposed to hold it twice a year as it may be convenient.
- Dr. Rehman suggested for collaboration of scientists from FRC/IWST so that projects on use of NTFP for control of insect populations can be made this year itself for putting forth to DBT for possible funding. He expressed his keenness to meet the October deadline for DBT sponsored projects. Sri S.C. Joshi responded that as FRC does not have an Entomologist, Dr. Sundarraj, Scientist of IWST can be the contact person for developing such collaborative projects.
- Dr. Rehman informed about the heavy incidence of Papaya Mealy Bugs affecting agricultural crops as well as forest trees. He informed the gathering that they have imported a parasitoid for control of the pest after obtaining quarantine clearances. Sri S.C. Joshi responded that they have taken up a project on Mealy Bugs at IWST and that another Scientist is exploring botanical compounds having biocide properties from weeds.
- Dr. B.N. Mohanty recalled the reservations expressed by some stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of biopesticides during the earlier RAG meeting at Bangalore. Dr. Rehman pointed out that the only limitation with the biopesticide is the lack of their availability in sufficient quantity.
- Dr. Rehman also showed his interest in developing problem specific agroforestry models in collaboration with FRC/IWST. It was decided that Dr. G.R.S. Reddy and Mr. M. B. Honnuri of FRC will be the contact persons for development of any such projects in future.
- **Since agroforestry models are more in trials at IWST, it was proposed to invite Dr. Rehman for the Stakeholders' meet to be held at Bangalore during 1<sup>st</sup> week of June 2011.**

- Sri S.C. Joshi pointed out that APFD should extend all possible help in terms of funding, land, logistics etc. Especially APFD should utilize the expertise of FRC to develop extension brochures. He stressed that a general strategy should be developed to work on collaborative projects with APFD.
- Dr. B.V. Prasada Reddy, Addl. PCCF informed that he has some budget, which can be utilized by FRC/IWST for any research or publication purpose in their core competency areas. *Melia dubia* germination studies to be taken up which is having a lot of problems, they are willing to provide budget for this purpose. Director suggested that Dr. G.R.S. Reddy of FRC may take up this study and come up with a proposal within 10 days time by interacting with Dr. Prasada Reddy.
- Dr. Siddiqui pointed about the pitfalls in having too many projects in too many broad fields, without having requisite numbers esp. scientific and supporting staff at FRC. He offered help in bio-monitoring of faunal diversity, especially aquatic biodiversity in EIA studies.
- Dr. Joseph informed that many farmers in AP are getting deceived by the false productivity claims by unscrupulous elements/businessmen pertaining to *Melia dubia* and *Santalum album*. It is the duty of the University and research organizations to take up proper biomass studies in such species, so that the actual productivity related information is available for the farmers before they take up any large scale plantations. Sri S. C. Joshi informed that Dr. Arun Kumar, scientist from IWST has taken up a project on productivity aspects of *Melia dubia* in various intensively managed plantations. Productivity related information on *Melia dubia* will be available in a few years time. Dr. Mohanty informed the details of contact person, who can clarify regarding cultivation practices of *Melia dubia*.
- Dr. Joseph further informed that they would like to send their research students to FRC/IWST to take up projects related to Agroforestry, biomass and Carbon sequestration studies to M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. Sri S.C. Joshi informed that they are open to research students for their project purpose. An MOU can be entered into this aspect.
- Dr. Srivasuki, CEO, APMPB, pointed that though the infrastructure is in place, FRC needs more scientific and supporting staff to cater to the research needs of AP. He informed that as a result of their subsidy, large scale plantations of *Santalum album* has been taken up in non-conventional areas by farmers in AP. He requested for a survey of such non-conventional areas to see whether heart wood formation is taking place or not. He informed that APMPB is ready to bear the travelling costs of the visiting team from FRC/IWST. He emphasized that it is the duty of APMPB to bring about the truth regarding heart wood formation.
- Dr. Srivasuki, opined that there should be a project formulation team at FRC, who can help poor farmers in formulating projects to be submitted to APMPB. Unscrupulous consultants are charging heavy amounts as project advisory fees from poor farmers. He suggested that FRC should encourage farmers to grow *Piper longum*, *Coleus forskolii*, *Withania somnifera* and *Santalum album* as these species qualify for subsidy.

- Sri S.C. Joshi informed about the vast repository of knowledge and expertise at IWST on *Santalum album*. The same should be utilized by farmers who are getting subsidy from the APMPB. The IWST can provide training on nursery and plantation package of practices and can supply limited quality of planting material.
- Dr. Srivasuki, suggested that the elite planting material being produced at IWST should be characterized and the certified information should be supplied along with the planting material.
- Dr. Sudhakar, CGM, AP Forest Development Corporation informed that FRC/IWST should bring out cultivation package of practices for cultivation of forest species which will be very useful for the Forest Department and farmers. He proposed, FRC should take up research on mined area rehabilitation.
- Director, IWST responded that Extension is the prime casualty in forestry research. Good brochures were produced during World Bank Project. He emphasized for more attention to extension activities.
- Dr. Srivasuki, informed that the need for scientific information on cultivation of tree species is persistent. Hence, FRC/IWST should bring out information brochures on regular basis.
- Dr. Hemalata showed her interest in developing collaborative projects on site specific nutrient management and Agroforestry models in which ANGRAU has core competency.
- Farmers also interacted in the meeting

**BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS ABOVE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS  
WERE MADE**

- To hold brain storming meeting twice a year to discuss about research activities of Forest Research Centre.
- As recommended by Dr. Rehman, a collaboration with the FRC/IWST will be taken up with the following areas of research:
  - a. For NTFP projects - IWST Scientists will collaborate with Dr. Rehman and there will be a meeting to formulate the projects to work the modalities. Action: IWST.
  - b. For Entomology projects -IWST Scientists will collaborate with Dr. Rehman and there will be a meeting to formulate the projects to work the modalities. Action: IWST.
  - c. For Agroforestry projects - FRC scientists, Dr. G. R. S. Reddy and Sri. Honnuri will formulate the project modalities after discussing with Dr. Rehman. Action: Dr. G. R. S. Reddy as PI.

- A meeting with research wing of AP Forest Department has to be taken up with the Scientists of FRC to formulate the projects/consultancy related to *Melia dubia* germination studies/Taxonomic studies. Action: FRC Scientists.
- To be taken up help of ZSI in relation to bio-monitoring of faunal diversity, especially aquatic biodiversity in EIA studies.
- To take up collaborative projects with Forestry Division of ANGRAU on Agroforestry, site specific nutrient management, Biomass and Carbon sequestration. Students and Ph. D. scholars can be exchanged for knowledge transfer in the areas of Agroforestry and Carbon sequestration.
- Large scale plantations of *Santalum album* were taken up in non-conventional areas by farmers in A.P. For which a pilot project on survey and study to be taken up by IWST to assess the hard wood formation.
- FRC needs more scientific and supporting staff to cater to the research needs as recommended by many stake holders
- Project formulation team of FRC, has to help poor farmers in formulation of projects on medicinal plants cultivation to grow *Piper longum*, *Coleus forskolii*, *Withania somnifera*, and *Santalum album* as these species qualify for subsidy for which sufficient scientists and supporting staff should be posted.
- To provide elite planting material information on *Santalum album* and the certified information should be supplied along with the planting material by IWST.
- To take up research on mined area for rehabilitation.
- To bring out package of practices for cultivation of forestry species which will be very useful to the Forest Department and farmers.
- FRC/IWST should bring out information brochures on regular basis in vernacular language on cultivation of tree species.

**The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Sri Jaya Prasad IFS.**

(S.C. Joshi)  
Director, IWST