

## **Training of 134 & 135 Inf Bn(TA) Eco ASSAM REGT**

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted a week long training programme on forestry for Officers and *Jawans* of 134 & 135 Infantry Battalion on Territorial Army, Eco Task Force (Assam) from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011. The trainees include one Lt. Col. and one Captain Rank officers, two JCOs and ten ORs. 134 Infantry Battalion is based at Sonitpur district & involved in eco-restoration activities in an around Nameri National Park in the Sonitpur district. This Battalion has planted large number of trees in the degraded forest lands in collaboration with Assam Forest department. Many of these trees are fruit bearing trees such as Mango, Jamun, Jackfruit etc. 135 Infantry Battalion is based at Kokrajhar involved in eco-restoration work at lower Assam areas.

Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI welcomed the trainees and praised the commendable job done by the various ETFc of India. Speaking in the occasion, Dr. Klaus von Gadow, visiting scientist from Germany shared experience of his association with German Army for two years in his earlier days. Lt. Col. Kuljeet Jaggi, from 134 ETF and Cap. Shailesh Mishra from 135 ETF also spoke on the occasion.

The main objective of undergoing this training is the capacity building of the trainees. The trainees were provided with theoretical as well as practical session during the training. They also visited field, forest areas apart from Institute's nursery and Bambusetum. Some of the topics covered in the training were propagation and commercial cultivation of bamboos, principles and practices of nursery and plantation management, Vermicomposting and Biofertilizer, rattan and orchid diversity in Assam/North-East, disease and pest management, biotechnology application, climate change, ecology, application of GIS in forestry etc.

The trainees were well acquainted with Joint Forest Management activities jointly operated by Assam Forest Department, Sivasagar and local bodies at *Garopaban* Joint Forest Management, Geleki, Sivasagar where the trainees experienced the Agroforestry models, plantation of bamboo, Titasopa (*Michelia champaca*), agar wood along with few other agricultural cash crops for effective utilization of land and also income diversification. Plantation of Som (*Machilus bombycina*), a food plant of famous *Muga* silk of Assam is also raised under JFMC. More than hundreds of families are benefitted by raising cocoons on the *Som* trees. Plantation of another tree, Mezankori (*Litsea cubaba*) was also raised. *Muga* cocoon feeding on Mezankori leaves produces world's best quality *Muga* silk. The trainees interacted with local farmers to understand the operational modalities of JFMC.

The trainees were distributed with *Certificate of Excellence* by Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI at the concluding session of the training.

**134 Infantry Battalion (TA) Eco ASSAM**

1. Lt. Col. Kuljit Jaggi
2. NB SUB Dambaru Dhar Rabha
3. HAV Phatik Lahon
4. L/NK Nilamani Deka
5. L/NK Dipak Saikia
6. SEP Pradip Kr. Ray
7. SEP Bogadhar Rajkonwar
8. SEP Pranjal Konwar

**135 Infantry Battalion (TA) Eco ASSAM**

1. CAPT Sailesh Kumar,
2. SUB Natum Singh
3. HAV Anil Chandra Das
4. HAV Pitambar Kalita
5. SEP Rubul Das
6. SEP Suchil Boruah

**Detail Programme of the Training:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>9:30 to 10:45 AM</b>	<b>11:00 to 1:00 PM</b>	<b>2:00 to 3:30 PM</b>	<b>3:45 to 5:30 PM</b>
<b>19-12-2011</b>	Induction Programme	Principles & Practices of Nursery Management <b><u>Sri Arup Kr. Deka</u></b>	Plantation Management <b><u>Sri Gautam Banerjee</u></b>	Practical on Nursery Management <b><u>Sri Arup Kr. Deka</u></b>
<b>20-12-2011</b>	Problems and Prospects of Shifting Cultivation in NE <b><u>Sri P. K. Kaushik</u></b>	Agroforestry <b><u>Sri Alok Yadav</u></b>  Seed Technology <b><u>Dr. Aditya Kumar</u></b>	Insect Pest Management <b><u>Sri Raja Rishi</u></b> Diseases of forest nursery/ plantation and their management <b><u>Dr. Sailesh Pandey</u></b>	Vermicomposting and Biofertilizer Applications in Forestry <b><u>Dr. Vipin Prakash</u></b>
<b>21-12-2011</b>	Plus Tree Selection Programme <b><u>Dr. Tara Chand</u></b>	Bamboo Preservation Techniques (Practical) & Visit to Bamboo Composite Center <b><u>Sri D. Gurung</u></b>	Propagation Techniques of Bamboo (Practical) <b><u>Sri Kumud Borah</u></b>	Visit to RFRI Bambusetum <b><u>Sri Debojit Neog</u></b>
<b>22-12-2011</b>	<b>Visit to Sivasagar JFM Site &amp; RFRI Demo Village</b>			
<b>23-12-2011</b>	Propagation, Commercial Cultivation and Management of Bamboo (Theory) <b><u>Dr. T. C. Bhuyan</u></b>	Rattan Diversity and their Conservation Strategies in NE <b><u>Sri H. R. Borah</u></b>	Application of GIS in Forestry (Theory & Practical) <b><u>Sri D. J. Das</u></b>	Valedictory Session

























