

Report of Training on Shifting Cultivation Practices *vis-a-vis* Livelihood Opportunities in North East India

Rain forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) organized a three days training programme on “Shifting cultivation practices vis a vis livelihood opportunities in North East India” from 25th to 27th February, 2013. The training was organized under Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management - Country Partnership Programme (SLEM-CPP) of ICFRE for the capacity building of the human resources. The training programme was a residential training attended by twenty five participants from different sectors such as State Forest Departments, Universities, Department of Soil & Water Conservation, Department of Agriculture, NGOs, Progressive Farmers etc. Eleven resource persons were invited from different fields to deliver lectures on different aspects of shifting cultivation and livelihood options.

The Training programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director, RFRI, Jorhat. While welcoming the participants, resource persons and guests, Dr. Bisht covered various aspects of shifting cultivation. He pointed out that *Jhum* Cultivating plays a significant role in socio-cultural heritage, beliefs, folklores and continuation of the traditional practices of the people of this region. However, he pointed out that the impact of shifting cultivation are devastating and far reaching in degrading the environment and ecology of the region mainly due to increase in population and reducing periodicities of *Jhum* cycles. In this regard, he specifically cited the example of population increase in Mizoram.

Inaugural Session was also attended by Sri R. K. Srivastava, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Manipur; Sri Kunal Satyarthi, Assistant Director General (Media & Extension), ICFRE, Dehradun; Dr. Prasanna K. Samal, Scientist Incharge, G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Itanagar; Sri N. K. Malakar, Divisional Forest Officer, Jorhat; Scientists and Officers of RFRI.

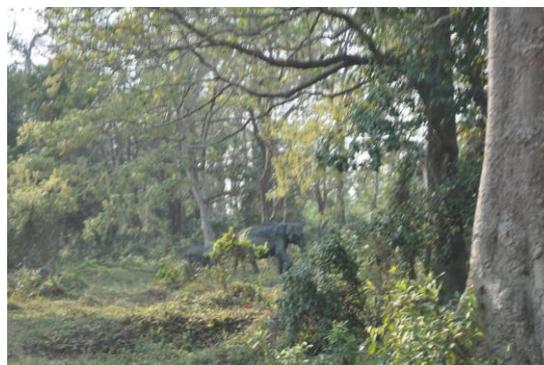
There were altogether eleven Technical Sessions in which eminent Scientists, Professors and Officers delivered their presentations. A Field Trip was also organised to Kohora and Kaziranga National Park to acquaint trainees with various soil and water conservation measures, plantation, eco-tourism activities adopted by Soil & Water Conservation Department in shifting cultivation areas.

Glimpses of the Training









Newspaper Coverage

