

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Conifer Campus, Panthaghati, SHIMLA-171 009 (Himachal Pradesh)

EXPOSURE VISIT UNDER DIRECT TO CONSUMER SCHEME

(26.12.2013)

Under 'Direct to Consumer Scheme' of the council, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized an exposure visit-cum- educational tour of motivated farmers from Khatnol Panchayat of Distt. Shimla (HP) on **26.12.2013** to Conifer Campus, Panthaghati, Shimla and also to **Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA)** at Potter's Hill, Summer Hill, Shimla. The tour was conducted with an intention to further brush up the knowledge of farmers on various forestry aspects and to guide them towards medicinal plants cultivation on their farmlands. The Exposure visit in-fact was undertaken with a view to expose visiting farmers to latest knowledge in the field and practically demonstrate things in the field to enhance the adoption level.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F and Coordinator of this Exposure Visit welcomed the participants (15 no.) from various villages of Khatnol region (Shimla) on their arrival to Conifer campus, HFRI Shimla. He also briefed about the day's event to the visiting farmers. Thereafter, **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** on behalf of Director HFRI again welcomed the participants of this exposure visit to HFRI Shimla. Dr. Kapoor in his inaugural address advised the participants to interact freely with the experts at the institute and discuss all issues across for the success of Direct to Consumer scheme of the council. After inauguration, **Dr. Sandeep Sharma** presented his work on nursery techniques for raising Atish (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), Chora (*Angelica glauca*), Kukti (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) and Mushakbala (*Valeriana jatamasi*). A presentation by **Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist –F** on Bamboos followed the same, which was specifically taken up on the request of the participants. **Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E** gave a presentation on the identification of medicinal plants and inter-cultivation of medicinal plants in orchards. **Dr. S. Chakraborti, Scientist –F** through his presentation highlighted the importance of Bio-pesticides in organic farming and discussed pests of Ban Kakri and suggested various control measure. **Dr. R K Verma, Scientist –F** talked about medicinal wealth of Khatnol and nearby areas. To further benefit the participants, a complete session was conducted as interaction amongst participants and the experts.

During this session visiting farmers expressed their opinion about this ‘**Exposure Visit**’ and freely interacted with the resource persons. Relevant queries of the participants pertaining to various issues regarding cultivation of medicinal plants in the field were duly addressed through expert opinion of the resource persons.

The participants also visited the upcoming **Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum** (WHTA) at Potters Hill, Summer Hill, Shimla (being established by Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla) in the evening. The farmers were taken around the arboretum facility by **Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist** Incharge for the arboretum, who explained the various activities being undertaken for its development. The visitors were explained about the native temperate flora of the region and the importance of their conservation to the people at large. They were also shown the germplasm of these species being maintained in the Mist Chamber and Shade House.

The farmers were really impressed by the landscaping coming up at the arboretum and wished to be brought again during the spring time to enjoy the flowering of the species planted.

In the end, a special Vote of Thanks was also extended by **Dr. Vaneet Jishtu** to the visiting farmers.

SOME CLIPPINGS OF THE EXPOSURE VISIT



