



## **A report of DG, ICFRE, visit to Himachal Pradesh from 16.09.2022 to 20.09.2022**

Sh. Arun Singh Rawat, IFS, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun (ICFRE) was on tour to Himachal Pradesh from 16.09.2022 to 20.09.2022 to inaugurate VVK and Kisan Mela at Longni, Dharampur, district Mandi and monitoring of the various activities being carried out by Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, at VVK, Jagatsukh, Manali, H.P. On 18.09.2022, he formally inaugurated the demonstration nursery at Shivdawala, Dharampur, Mandi and inspected different nursery activities. He further suggested to raise more demand based economically important tree and NTFPs species for the benefit of local communities. Later on he was present as guest of honor during inauguration of VVK Longni and Kisan Mela at Dharampur Mandi. Sh. Mohinder Singh Thakur, Honorable Jalshakti, Revenue, Horticulture and Sanik Kalyan, Minister, Govt of H.P. was the chief guest during the programme. While, addressing the gathering, Sh Rawat said that forestry research, education and extension are the main objectives of the council. The Council has started Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) on the lines of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. HFRI Shimla has already established three Van Vigyan Kendra and the fourth VVK has been started at Longani, Dharampur, Mandi. VVK's are playing an important role in forestry extension. He further said that Kisan Mela is an important event to create forestry awareness about new technologies developed amongst the farmers. Such an event is also an important source of receiving feedback from farmers and extension functionaries for deciding the research strategies and extension priorities of the organization. This provides an opportunity to see the technologies developed by different organizations. Although the people of this region are already practicing traditional agro-forestry, there is considerable scope for developing agro-forestry systems based on agro-forestry, agri-silvi, agri-horticulture and medicinal plants to increase productivity and generate sustainable income. He also inspected exhibition stall installed by HFRI, Forest Department, Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department and Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar Horticulture and Forestry College, Neri-Hamirpur. He expressed hope that the people here would be benefitted by the opening of this New VVK at Longni, Dharampur.

On 19.09.2022, he visited Field Research Station cum VVK, Jagatsukh, Manali, H.P. and took stock of various research and VVK activities. He suggested increasing the frequency of training programs for speedy dissemination of technologies developed by the Institute and other organization. Also visited Keylong of district Lahoul & Spiti to witness regeneration status of *Juniperous polycarpus*.

**Glimpses of Activities during inauguration of VVK and Kisan mela at Longni, Dharampur, Mandi, H.P.**



