

## REPORT OF COURSE DIRECTOR OF WORKING PLAN PREPARATION TRAINING

**Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam)** organized three-day training on Working Plan Preparation for Forest Officers under Autonomous District Councils of North Eastern States. The training conducted at CASFOS, Burnihat, Guwahati during 27-29 September, 2022, was sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, North East Regional Office, Shillong (Meghalaya). There were 14 participants from different Autonomous District Councils of NE States of Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya (List attached). The Training was inaugurated by Shri W. I. Yatbon, IFS, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, NERO, Shillong in presence of Dr. C. Ramesh, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Burnihat, Guwahati. In his inaugural speech, Shri Yatbon spoke about the importance of Working Plan and Working Scheme for scientific management of forests.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION 1:**

First Technical Session was conducted by Shri W. I. Yatbon, IFS, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, NERO, Shillong. He explained the National Working Plan Code-2014 and role of the role of frontline Officers and Staff. He started with history working plan preparation process in the country. He informed that in 1837, first planned working of forests in the country was started by Mr. U. V. Munro, the then Superintendent of Forests in Travancore. In 1856, Dr. Dietrich Brandis propounded the fundamental principle that the first class trees to be felled in a year be restricted to the GS of the second class trees based on which he prepared the first forest management plan using strip sampling for the Pegu Yoma Forests of Myanmar in the year 1860. In 1884, Sir Wilhelm Schlich, IGF, promoted country wide unified approach towards the preparation of working plans and scientific management of forests as per prescription. In 1891, W.E. D'arcy brought out his treatise "Preparation of Forest Working-Plans in India" providing guidelines for systematic working plan preparations.

In 1906, Superintendent of Working Plans stationed at FRI, Dehradun was entrusted with the work of checking WPs . Start of more research-based scientific prescriptions by WPOs. In 1947, FD undertook big drives to recover substantial areas under the WPs but as, the state/provincial governments adopted their own provincial working plan codes, irregular and discretionary. In 1996, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India clarified that all forests are to be scientifically managed as per approved WPs and clarified that WPs are to be approved by the Central Government under Sec 2 of Forest Conservation Act. In 2004, the MoEF, Govt. of India then adopted a uniform code, the National Working Plan Code - 2004 for preparation of WPs for the management of forests under the prescriptions of a working plan/scheme to

standardize the procedure. Subsequently, National Working Plan Code-2004 was revised and National Working Plan Code – 2014 was prepared. The guiding principle National Working Plan Code-2014 is the concept of sustainability in forest management implies not only sustainability of productive functions or yield, but also include environmental functions (soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration etc.) and Socio-economic benefits (meeting livelihood and basic needs) to forest dwellers and other forest dependent communities.

He explained each and every concept of the Code for better understanding of the participants.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION 2:**

Shri Yunush Salim, AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry, Goalpara (Assam) conducted the second Technical Session, He explained the Working Plan as the main instrument of forest planning (more exactly forest working) in the country for scientific management of forests. It is a very useful document for evaluating the status of forests and biodiversity resources of a forest division, assessing the impact of past management practices and deciding about suitable management interventions for future. Periodical up-dating and revision of working plan is essential to keep pace with the trends emerging out of forest–people interface and to address national and international obligations.

Shri Salim shared his vast experience of preparation two Working Plans of Assam: Dibrugarh Working Plan and Kamrup West Working Plan. He demonstrated all the important points required for preparation of working plan. He told that preparation of working plan is a highly technical exercise under taken at regular interval in each forest division. The preparation of the working plan is based on stock and vegetation maps which is prepared through ground surveys. Recently, the use of modern tools like remote sensing, GIS and GPS is being utilized for preparing the forest cover maps of forest divisions. Every working plan includes the area specific scientific prescriptions for proper management of forests of a particular forest division, while working schemes are prepared for smaller areas for a specific purpose or for forest areas under the control/ ownership of such bodies as private, village, municipal, cantonment, autonomous district council (especially in north eastern states), etc. These prescriptions enable necessary co-existence of development with nature for simultaneous implementation of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006; and meeting the requirements of the objectives of the National Forest Policy and other international conventions/agreements.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION 3:**

Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Das, Scientist-E, Head, FECC Division, RFRI, Jorhat delivered his presentation on 'Application of Geospatial Tools in Resource Survey'. He described about basic concepts of GPS like what is GPS and satellites, how do they work and how the units of GPS are set like. He described about the use of GPS in different fields like forestry, agriculture, wildlife, urban planning etc. He described on how migratory birds are tracked and how territories/ home ranges of wild animals can be demarked with the help of GPS. He also spoke on man-animal conflicts that can be minimized by locating the position of wild animals which are coming out from the natural habitats.

### **FIELD VISIT**

A Field Visit was organized at Rani Forest Range of Kamrup East Forest Division to conduct the practical demonstrations by Shri Yunush Salim and Dr. D. J. Das.

Shri Yunush Salim demonstrated various methods and procedures related to the preparation of Working Plan, that included Forest Inventory, Survey and Mapping, Grid Based Sampling Design, Growth Data and Carbon Sequestration, Forest Resource Assessment Methodology, Laying out Grids on The Toposheet and Sample Plots, Descriptive Work While Reaching Sample Plots, Layout of Sample Plots in Field, Plot Enumeration, Carbon Stock Estimation etc.

Dr. D. J. Das demonstrated the procedure of using GPS and also measurement of area in the forests with the help of GPS.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION 4:**

Shri C. A. Rahman, IFS(Rtd.), Faculty Member, CASFOS, Burnihat, Guwahati conducted the fourth Technical Session exhaustively. He taught about the determination of optimum Sample size, Inputs required for preparation of WP, Computation and analysis of Data, Deciding/ Formation of Working Circles including Area, Calculation of Yield and Laying of Annual coupes, Finalization of Silviculture systems/ operations/ activities in each Working Circle. He also taught about the preliminary Working Plan Report & its contents and also the Final Working Plan-its format and contents.

### **VALEDICTORY SESSION:**

At the end of the three-day Training, Valedictory Session was conducted which was attended by Dr. C. Ramesh, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Burnihat, Guwahati. He appealed to the participants to make use of the knowledge and experience gathered during this three-day training in their respective place of working. The Participating Officers shared their experiences and suggested the following points for consideration in future:

1. Planning and execution of the training is praiseworthy. However, the Training period is very short. The content of Working Plan Preparation is vast. It should be for of minimum 7-10 days duration with sufficient practical demonstrations.
2. Separate training on GIS need to be imparted to the Officers working in the field.

Certificates were distributed to the successful participants during the Valedictory Session. Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist F, Head, Extension Division, RFRI, Jorhat and Course Director of the Training expressed his thanks to all concerned for successful completion of the training programme.

GLIMPSES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME



INAUGURAL SESSION



Group Photo

## Course Director's Report on Training of Working Plan Preparation | 2022



**Technical Session by Shri W. I. Yatbon**



**Technical Session by Shri Yunush Salim**



**Technical Session by Dr. D. J. Das**



**Field Study at Rani Forest Range, Kamrup East Forest Division, Guwahati**



*Course Director's Report on Training of Working Plan Preparation* | 2022



# Course Director's Report on Training of Working Plan Preparation | 2022



**Technical Session by Shri C. A. Rahman**



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## VALEDICTORY SESSION





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