



# ICFRE Climate News

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## News from ICFRE

**Biodiversity and Climate  
Change (BCC) Division  
Directorate of Research**

**Indian Council of  
Forestry Research and  
Education  
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**Uttarakhand REDD-Plus Pilot Project:** An inception meeting of Uttarakhand REDD-Plus Pilot Project was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at ICFRE, Dehradun. Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE apprised the meeting by giving a presentation on 'Overview and historical account of REDD-plus concepts'. In his presentation, he briefly describes about the roadmap for REDD-plus in India and highlighted key issues regarding the REDD-plus pilot project in Uttarakhand. Sh. V.R.S Rawat, Scientist - E, BCC Division, ICFRE con-signed the meeting by giving presentation on 'REDD-plus pilot project in the Van Panchayats of Uttarakhand (India): Methodological issues'. Shri Rawat emphasizes on project requirements and selection of appropriate methodology according to the applicability conditions. Dr. Parag Dhakate, REDD-Plus Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand Forest Department delivered his presentation on 'Thoughts on selection of sites and participation of Van Panchayats commu-nities'. Inception meeting was attended by the officers and scientists from ICFRE, FRI and Uttarakhand State Forest Department.

**Project on Forestry Sector – Mitigation and Gaps & Constraints:** BCC Division has submitted the final report of project activity on 'Forestry Sector – Mitigation and Gaps & Constraints' under India's First Biennial Update Report Preparation to NATCOM Project Management Cell of Ministry of Envi-ronment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. The report pro-vides the updated information on climate change mitigation; constraints and gaps; needs related to research, financial, technical and capacity building on climate change mitigation and adaptation in forestry sector of India.

**Climate Change Module of Mid Carrier Training Programme (Phase III) for IFS Officers:** Climate change module of mid carrier training programme (Phase III) for IFS officers was organized by BCC Division, Directorate of Research, ICFRE at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun from 21-27 July 2014.

### Participation in India-US Joint Working Group Meeting on Combating Climate Change:

The first meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on combating climate change was held on 30th July 2014 at New Delhi. The meeting was initiated by the Sh. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India and Mr. Todd Stern, Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist 'E', BCC Division, ICFRE participated in the meeting and apprised about the ongoing collaboration on the pilot REDD-plus initiative under USAID. It was suggested to enhance the ongoing activities and support the capacity building initiatives for REDD-plus. He also focused upon the vulnerability assessment under the Green India Mission.

**REDD-Plus Planning Workshop:** A three days planning workshop was organized by Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE in collaboration with ICIMOD and GIZ at Dehradun from 26-28 August 2014 for finalizing the operational part of REDD-plus capacity development programme for Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and India. The workshop started with the welcome address by Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE which was followed by Dr. Rajan Kotru, Regional Programme Manager, ICIMOD, who gave the brief introduction of ICIMOD and REDD-plus linkage. Dr. Bhaskar Karky, REDD-plus Coordinator, ICIMOD explained the purpose of the workshop, the partners countries and the objectives of the project. Dr. G.S. Goraya, Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE gave his opening remarks regarding the workshop. He emphasized the need of REDD-plus programme and its implementation for the enhancement of carbon stock and sustainable management of forest ecosystem. The participants from ICFRE, FRI, RFRI, State Forest Department of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora participated in the workshop. During the workshop, activities related to the formulation of objectives in the form of outputs, outcomes and impacts; actor analysis in relation to present and future scenario and their relationship to REDD-plus in India; formulating indicators; activity planning and budgeting were carried out as group tasks followed by presentation, discussion and feedback from each group. After the different group activities and discussions, the ICIMOD expert team produced a document titled 'Activities for India REDD-plus programme' which contained proposed impact, outcome and output for REDD-plus implementation in India based on the results gathered from the assessment of different group activities, presentations and discussions. The workshop reviewed the ongoing REDD-plus programmes in India and prepared an impact pathway and planning of activities for implementing the programme for India.



REDD-Plus Planning Workshop

**Stakeholder Consultation on REDD-Plus at Haldwani (Nainital):** Stakeholder consultation of the Uttarakhand REDD plus project with the officers of the Uttarakhand Forest Department was held at Forest Training Academy, Haldwani on 19 August 2014. Forest officers of Uttarakhand Forest department and project team members from BCC Division, ICFRE were participated in the stakeholder consultation. Stakeholder consultation was followed by interaction with the representatives of Van Panchayat form Dolgarh Watershed of District Nainital of Uttarakhand on 20 August 2014.



**Stakeholder Consultation on REDD-Plus at Haldwani (Nainital)**

**Consultative Workshop on Forestry Sector-Mitigation and Gaps & Constraints:** A one day first consultative workshop on preparation of India's Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC- forestry Sector-Mitigation and Gaps & Constraints was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at ICFRE Headquarters, Dehradun. Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Director General, ICFRE in his address expressed that climate is changing at much faster rate for the last 40-50 years, many species of flora and fauna are at the risk of extinction due to rapid climate changes, especially increase in average global temperature. Dr. Kumar stressed that there are various constraints and gaps in the Forest and climate change related mitigation actions and programmes at state and national level. During the technical session, Dr. T.P. Singh's ADG (BCC) in his presentation gave an overview of National Communication (NATCOM) to the UNFCCC, Biennial Update Report (BUR) and Gaps and Constraints for India's third NATCOM to the UNFCCC. Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist 'E', BCC, ICFRE, made a presentation on Draft Biennial Update Report- Forestry Sector-Mitigation and Gaps and Constraints. He presented the salient features of the draft BUR submitted to MoEF&CC. Shri Jai Raj, Additional PCCF (Environment), Uttarakhand Forest Department, gave a detailed presentation on Forestry Sector Mitigation Actions in the context of Uttarakhand. Officers and scientists from ICFRE, FRI and Uttarakhand State Forest Department participated in the workshop.



**Consultative Workshop at ICFRE, Dehradun**

**Consultative Workshop on Forestry Sector-Mitigation and Gaps & Constraints:** A one day second consultative workshop on “India’s biennial update report to UNFCCC-Forestry Sector-Mitigation and Gaps and Constraints” was held at RFRI, Jorhat, Assam on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Dr. N.S. Bisht, Director, RFRI, Jorhat in his introductory remarks mentioned that India is one of the country Parties to the UNFCCC. In accordance with the requirements of the UNFCCC, Country parties to the Convention require to furnish information in the form of the National Communication (NATCOM) containing information related to the implementation of the Convention. Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE explained the overview of NATCOM to the participants. Dr. N.S. Bisht, Director, RFRI presented the ‘State Action Plan on Climate Change of Mizoram State and Constraints and Gaps in Forestry Sector.’ Sh. R. K. Das IFS, DFO, Tinsukia Division, Assam presented forest situation and various forestry programmes initiated by Government. Sh. D. Sathiyam, Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya, briefed about the salient features of the State Action Plan on Climate Change for the state of Meghalaya and climate change mitigation measures taken by the Government. Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE made a presentation on the ‘Draft Biennial Update Report- Forestry Sector- Mitigation and Gaps and Constraints’. Officers and scientists from ICFRE, RFRI and Forest Departments of North -East States participated in the workshop.



**Consultative Workshop at RFRI, Jorhat**

**Participation in REDD-Plus Planning Workshop-cum-Impact Pathway Training:** Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE participated in a ‘REDD Plus Planning Workshop-cum-Impact Pathway Training’ at Thimpu, Bhutan from 28-30 October 2014 as an observer and contributed for south-south REDD-Plus Platform. The workshop was organized by ICIMOD, in collaboration with GIZ, and the Watershed Management Division and Forest Resource Management Division of the Ministry of Forest and Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan.

**Participation in Regional Training on Triple Bottom Line Multi Criteria Analysis:** Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC). ICFRE participated in USAID sponsored regional training on Triple Bottom Line Multi Criteria Analysis at Chiang Mai, Thailand from 16-21 November 2014.

**Participation in meeting of the Sub Group on Forestry and Climate Change:** Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE participated in the meeting of the Sub Group on Forestry and Climate Change to discuss REDD-plus issues at Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi on 18 November 2014.

**Participation in a Policy Dialogue for Senior Policy Makers on Natural Capital for Inclusive Growth: Options and Tools for South Asia:** Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC) and Dr. R.S. Rawat, Scientist-C, BCC Division, ICFRE participated in a policy dialogue for senior policy makers on Natural Capital for Inclusive Growth: Options and Tools for South Asia organized by UNEP and ICIMOD at Kolkata from 17 to 19 December 2014.

**Participation in COP 20 Meetings of UNFCCC:** Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist - E, BCC Division, ICFRE participated in the SBSTA/SBI 41 and COP 20 meetings of the UNFCCC held in Lima (Peru) from 1-12 December 2014 as a member of India delegation on climate change negotiations. The Indian delegation was headed by Sh. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

### **Lecture Delivered**

Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'REDD-plus as climate change mitigation option for India's forests for the participants of Mid Carrier Training Course (Phase III) for IFS Officers at IGNFA, Dehradun on 22 July 2014.

Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE and Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Forests and Climate change: Issues and challenges' of Mid Carrier Training programme (Phase III) for IFS officers at IGNFA, Dehradun on 22 July 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'Introduction to Climate Change and Forestry' for the participants of Mid Carrier Training Course for IFS Officers at IGNFA, Dehradun on 22 July 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'Forestry Perspective in Global Warming and Climate Change' for the participants of Sensitization course in Forest Wildlife and Environmental Conservation at FRI, Dehradun on 11 October 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'International Negotiations on Forest and Climate Change' for the participants of training programme for IFS officers on 'New Working Plan Code and Carbon Inventory' at FSI, Dehradun on 15 October 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'Science of Climate Change, UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol' for the participants of training programme for IFS officers on 'Profession Skill up-gradation Course' at IGNFA, Dehradun on 11 November 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Forest and Climate Change' of Training programme for IFS officers on 'Profession Skill up-gradation Course' at IGNFA, Dehradun on 13 November 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'International Negotiations on Forest and Climate Change' for the participants of training programme for IFS officers on 'Carbon stock estimation by India's Forests' at FSI, Dehradun on 13 November 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'Overview of REDD and REDD-plus' for the participants of training programme for IFS officers on 'Carbon stock estimation by India's Forests' at FSI, Dehradun on 14 November 2014.

Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist E, BCC Division, ICFRE has delivered a lecture on 'Overview of Climate Change and Global Mitigation Actions' for the participants of training programme for Officers and Jawans of the Eco-task Force, Territorial Army at FRI, Dehradun on 17 December 2014.

## Media Reporting

**India signs grant agreement with the World Bank for special climate change fund assistance:** A Grant Agreement for World Bank assistance of US\$ 8 million for Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (SLACC) Project has been signed between the Government of India and the World Bank. This Agreement was signed by Shri Tarun Bajaj, Joint Secretary (MI), Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Onno Ruhl, Country Director, World Bank, India, on behalf of the World Bank. The grant project is funded through the Special Climate Change Fund of US\$ 8 million. The project aims to improve adaptive capacity of the rural poor engaged in farm-based livelihoods to cope with climate variability and change in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and scale up the demonstrated best practices and lessons into the Government of India's National Rural Livelihoods Mission (*Source: <http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/news/india-signs-grant-agreement-world-bank-special-climate-change-fund-assistance#sthash.81CyCUN3.dpuf>*).

**Launching of a booklet on India's Progress in Combating Climate Change:** Sh. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India launched a booklet on 'India's Progress in Combating Climate Change' as a briefing paper for COP 20 of UNFCCC at Lima (Peru) in December 2014.

**Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change:** The Union Government of India reconstituted the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate the National Action Plan for Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change. The new council will coordinate the action plan and advise the government on proactive measures that can be taken by India to deal with the challenge of climate change, an official statement said. It will facilitate inter-ministerial coordination and guide policy in relevant areas. The council will evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level, provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change and periodically monitor key policy decisions (*Source:<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/govt-reconstitutes-pms-council-on-climate-change/article6567187.ece>*).

**Finite carbon budget:** The UNEP report published on Wednesday is based on the idea that the planet has a finite 'carbon budget'. Since emissions surged in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, some 1,900 Gigatonnes (Gt) of CO<sub>2</sub> and 1,000 Gt of other greenhouse gases have already been emitted, leaving less than 1,000 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> left to emit before locking the planet in to dangerous temperature rises of more than 2<sup>o</sup>C above pre-industrial levels.

**Forests at greater risk due to climate change than previously believed:** A new study has revealed that forests around the world are affected by man-made climate change, suggesting that degradation of woods cannot be ruled out for the future. Taking a risk perspective, a team of scientists of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) caution that global warming puts additional pressure on some of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth (Source: [http://zeenews.india.com/news/sci-tech/forests-at-greater-risk-due-to-climate-change-than-previously-believed\\_1517700.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/sci-tech/forests-at-greater-risk-due-to-climate-change-than-previously-believed_1517700.html)).

**Reference Document for REDD-Plus in India:** Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India released the 'Reference Document for REDD-plus in India' in December 2014. Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE and Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist-E, BCC Division, ICFRE contributed as a members of the Expert Committee for preparation of this document. The reference document highlighted the information on National and International Status of REDD+, National Policy Framework for REDD-plus Implementation, REDD-plus in the Indian Context, Status of Current Forest Management Regime: Strengthening it to Support REDD-plus Implementation, Construction of National Forest Reference Level, Implementation of REDD-plus; Institutions, Governance and Safeguards; Roles and Responsibilities; Financial Arrangements and Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, MRV Mechanism and Capacity Building for MRV, Research and Knowledge Gaps in the Context of REDD-plus in India.

## Past Events

**International Conference on Mangroves of Asia-Pacific Countries in View of Climate Change:** The International Conference on Mangroves of Asia-Pacific Countries in View of Climate Change 2014 was held from 11 to 13 November 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The aim of this conference was to gather researchers and managers for the development of new ideas, techniques and enhancing networking for mangrove conservation in the region.

**XIII National Silviculture Conference:** The thirteenth National Silviculture Conference was organized at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun from 24-28 November 2014. The theme of the conference was "managing forests for their multiple functions". A session on REDD Plus was also organized under this conference.

**International Conference on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change:** The International Ecosystem Management Partnership has organised a conference in recognition of the growing role of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South partnership on climate change on 8 December 2014 at Lima, Peru. The International Conference on South-South Cooperation aims to raise awareness about this growing role, identify opportunities and challenges, agree on enabling conditions for promoting South-South cooperation, and create consensus for solidifying South-South cooperation's part in the expected 2015 agreement on climate change.

**Tropical Ecology Congress 2014:** Tropical Ecology Congress 2014 on “Tropical ecosystems in a changing world” was organised by School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and International Society for Tropical Ecology from 10-12 December at New Delhi. Tropics and climate change: impacts, mitigation and adaptations was one of the theme of the Tropical Ecology Congress.

**Lima Climate Change Conference - December 2014:** The 20th Session of the Conference of the Parties and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC was held from 1 to 12 December. COP 20/CMP 10 in Lima, Peru.

**Fifth National Research Conference on Climate Change:** Fifth National Research Conference on Climate Change was organized at IIT, New Delhi from 19 to 20 December 2014 by Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and Centre for Science and Environment.

### Upcoming Events

**Global Climate Policy Conference:** Second Global Climate Policy Conference will be organized by Climate Strategies and The Stanley Foundation (TSF) at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, India on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

**Training on Glacier, Climate Change and Remote Sensing:** Training on Glacier, Climate Change and Remote Sensing will be organized at Indian Institute of Science Bangalore on June 8-19, 2015.

**Bonn Climate Change Conference:** The forty-second sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 42) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 42), as well as the June session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP2-9) will be held from 1-11 June 2015 in Bonn, Germany.

**Eleventh session of the UN Forum on Forests:** The eleventh session of the UN Forum on Forests will be organized at New York, United States from 4-5 May 2015. The session consider the future of the international arrangement on forests, based on challenges and its effectiveness. Thematic issues under consideration will include sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement as well as cooperation and coordination.

**Two days training workshop on ‘REDD-Plus in India: Issues and Challenges’:** The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India sponsored two days training workshop for Indian Forest Service Officers on ‘REDD-Plus in India: Issues and Challenges’ will be organised at ICFRE, Dehradun from 25-26 June 2015.

## Relevant Publications

MoEFCC (2014). India's Progress in Combating Climate Change Briefing Paper for UNFCCC COP 20 Lima, PERU. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

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