

## **TRAINING OF IFS OFFICERS AT RFRI, JORHAT**

The Week-long Compulsory Training on *Bamboo Resource Development for Addressing Livelihood Concerns of Communities*, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for the officers of the Indian Forest Service was organized by Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. Twenty six officers from 17 States participated in the training. Some of them are serving as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Deputy Conservator of Forests and so on in different States. A few of them are also serving in various capacities in other Ministries/Departments of Government of India/ State Governments.

The Training was inaugurated by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat Lok Sabha Constituency as Chief Guest. Two senior officers, namely Shri S. K. Mandal, IFS, PCCF, Madhya Pradesh and Mrs. Shruti Sharma, IFS, Additional PCCF, Rajasthan graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The Inaugural Session started with lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest. It was followed by felicitation of Guests on the Dias by traditional *Phulam Gamosa*. Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, IFS, Director of the Institute delivered the welcome address and gave a detailed outline of the training course. Guest of Honour of the inaugural session Shri S.K. Mandal, IFS, PCCF, Madhya Pradesh, shared his experience on bamboo for livelihood particularly to the rural poor and its potential for versatile uses with more value added products including modern engineering and structural research. Mrs. Shruti Sharma, IFS, Additional PCCF, Rajasthan guest of honour briefed the activities of bamboo sector in Rajasthan and expressed her view that this training will encourage the forest officials for more inputs towards the development of bamboo sector of the country.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director offered Vote of Thanks.

First presentation in Technical Session was delivered by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat on 'Overview of bamboo sector in India'. In the second session, Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, Retired Scientist of RFRI, Jorhat delivered his presentation on 'Bamboo Propagation and Plantation Management'. Dr. Bhuyan mentioned the role of bamboo for social, cultural, economic, food security and various types of ecological applications such as soil stabilization, reclamation of land and environmental degradation etc.

The Participants visited RFRI Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, Germplasm Collection and Bamboo Composite Centre (BCC). Shri R. K. Kalita led the team to the field. They appreciated the efforts of RFRI in the sphere of bamboo handcrafts making for livelihood generation.

On the second day, a field trip was organized to visit Majuli to see plantations of bamboo and also its utilization by rural people. Shri R. K. Kalita led the team to Majuli. Shri S. K. Thakuria, DFO, Majuli welcomed the participants and delivered a presentation on Majuli. Participants visited one resort made of bamboo and interacted with the Entrepreneur. They also visited *Samaguri Satra* and witnessed live demonstration of making *Mukha* (Musk). They interacted with Sri Hem Chandra Goswami and Khogen Goswami, main Artists of *Samaguri Satra*. Trip to Majuli was well appreciated by all the participants.

On third day, first lecture was delivered by Dr. L. R. Bhuyan, Scientist, State Forest Research Institute, Arunachal Pradesh on ‘Bamboo Diversity, Conservation and Utilization in Arunachal Pradesh’. He described the bamboo as ‘green gold’ instead of ‘poor man’s timber’. Dr. L. R. Bhuyan urged to work on conservation of bamboo species and to find out suitable solution for threat due to death after flowering in inaccessible areas. He suggested for development of bamboo germplasm, thematic gardens and *ex-situ* conservation and to protect the traditional systems of bamboo utility and products through establishment of small scale industries for livelihood to rural people.

Dr. Abhinav Kant, In-Charge, Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala, Tripura delivered his presentation on Bamboo as Sustainable Future Material. He dealt with various innovative designs of many items made of bamboo. He emphasized on involvement of rural people for livelihood generation through improved products of bamboo.

Shri Priyam B. Goswami, Principal Architect, MAGNIDUS DESIGN, Delhi gave a lecture on Bamboo in structural construction. He described the traditional house making material of people under the rule of Ahom dynasty, when most of them were making with bamboo except the royal families.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist E, RFRI delivered a presentation on Bamboo Preservative Treatments. He explained various causes of bamboo degradation and emphasized on treatment of bamboo. He explained various methods of bamboo preservation and chemicals used in treatment of bamboos.

A Cultural programme showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Assam was organized in the evening where artists performed *Bhajan*, *Kathak* Dance, *Satriya* Dance, Vocal, Modern Dance, Orchestra and *Bihu* Dance. Cultural Programme was followed by Course Dinner.

On fourth day, another field trip was organized to witness various bamboo activities of Eco Development Committees in and around Kaziranga National Park. The field trip was led by Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director. Shri Akashdeep Baruah, IFS, Field Director, Kaziranga National Park along with Shri Rohini B. Saikia, IFS, DFO, KNP received the Trainees. Shri Barua delivered a presentation on different conservation activities of KNP and its challenges. In his presentation, Shri Baruah shared the challenges like poaching of the famous one horned Rhino, Tiger & other wild animals. He told the Officers that despite long lasting monsoon and flood situation the frontline staff of KNP remain vigil all the time to save the valuable wild animals. He told the Officers that due to constant efforts of KNP, the population of Rhino is increasing. The officers witnessed the various bamboo activities in and around the Park, and also had a brief visit to the Park.

On fifth day, Md. Ibrahim, Scientist C, RFRI, Jorhat delivered a presentation on Bamboo Research and Extension at RFRI, Jorhat. He said that RFRI has standardized nursery propagation techniques of six important bamboo species of North East India though culm cuttings and branch cuttings. These bamboo species are *Bambusa balcooa*, *B. bambos*, *B. tulda*, *B. nutans*, *B. pallida* and *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*. Techniques for plantation and management of these bamboo species have been worked out and standardized. RFRI has developed tissue culture protocols/ refined the existing protocols for three species viz. *Bambusa tulda*, *B. balcooa*, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*.

Second session was by Dr. Dhrubajyoti Das, Scientist E, RFRI, Jorhat who made a presentation on 'Bamboo Resource Mapping' with special references to mapping of *Muli* bamboo in Tripura. He described about the distribution of bamboo and use of remote sensing for mapping of bamboo. He described mapping of bamboo resources distribution with RS/ GIS based methods. He cited some case studies done by RFRI, Jorhat

Valedictory Session was chaired by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj. The participants expressed their satisfaction over smooth and comfortable training arrangement, execution, accommodation in addition to well planned, high valued training materials etc. Certificates and Mementoes were distributed to the participants in the valedictory session.

## GLIMPSES OF THE TRAINING

### INAUGURAL SESSION



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## Day 1: TECHNICAL SESSIONS



## DAY 1: VISIT TO RFRI BAMBOO NURSERY, BAMBUSETUM, GERMPLASM BANK AND BAMBOO COMPOSITE CENTRE



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**DAY 2: FIELD VISIT TO MAJULI**



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### DAY 3: TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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## CULTURAL PROGRAMME



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## DAY 4: FIELD VISIT TO KAZIRANGA



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### DAY 5: TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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## VALIDICTORY SESSION



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### NEWSPAPER COVERAGE



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