

ABOUT ICFRE

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is an autonomous council of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, was constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, in December 1986 to formulate, organize, direct and manage forestry research; transfer developed technologies to States and other agencies; and impart forestry education.



The Council with its eight regional research institutes and three research centers covering various bio-geographical regions of the country and to cater to the forestry research needs of the nation. These institutes are managed through four different Directorates and a Director Research and other allied offices to conduct activities of forestry research, education, extension and administration at ICFRE headquarters.

ICFRE took initiative to develop a comprehensive IT solution, named as Indian Forestry Research Information System (IFRIS), to transform the delivery of services in transparent, responsive, real time system.

e-GOVERNANCE @ICFRE

The name ICFRE has now become synonymous to e-Governance by virtue of futuristic Information and Communication Technology initiatives undertaken in the field of forestry research and various field of management. The thought process evolved in consonance with the "ENVISION" an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, which aims to transform the means of rendering services to various stakeholders of Ministry. The e-Governance initiatives taken up by the ICFRE have started taking shape as per the already laid down Road Map.

INDIAN FORESTRY RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (IFRIS)

Consistent with its mission ICFRE needed a strong and dynamic web presence of ICFRE institutions. Thus the thought process for Indian Forestry Research Information System (IFRIS) was initiated. The development of IFRIS was visualized in three stages:

Stage I : Conceptualization (Jun '06 to Jan '07) - A detailed study on services to be delivered, IT infrastructure requirements, Process Re-engineering of the services, and Functional Architecture was conducted.

Stage II : Project Development (Mar '07 to Aug '07) M/s Wipro, Gurgaon was appointed as project Development Consultant and potential improvement areas were identified and Analysis



Report "As-Is" Report and the "To-Be" processes for ICFRE was prepared with detailed functional and Technical Architecture. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for engagement of system developer was also finalized.

Stage III: Software Development and Implementation (Jan '08 to Mar '09)

M/s Shobha Renaissance Information Technology, Bangalore has been engaged through a competitive bidding process, the development process finally took off on January 2008. The application has been developed and User Acceptance Testing and Training is underway. System is expected to Go-Live by April 2009 at ICFRE and Institutes.

OFFERINGS OF PROPOSED IFRIS

IFRIS broadly comprises of two main parts viz.; Indian Forestry Research Management Information System (IFRMIS) and Indian Forestry Research Administration Information System (IFRAIS) and some key research web enabled services and records include

- Research Projects Database (on-going/completed) including externally funded
- Grants and Research Proposals
- Role based access to information / reports
- Downloadable Summary of Research reports
- Personal Information, Pay Roll and Financial Accounting System
- Procurement and Inventory
- Library Information Management System
- Real time availability of information on Centralized data repository
- Emailing and messaging systems with contact lists
- News, Events and Calendar of programs
- Tender Notices and Offices orders
- Feedback/Grievance Redressal and Audit Trails

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES – PEOPLE AND PROCESS

Project Institutional Framework has become an effective platform wherein Institute Apex committee meetings, Technical Committee Meetings and ICFRE Apex committee are being regularly conducted to highlight the expectations and concerns of the stake holders.



Change Management

ICFRE has brought about a process of change management through lectures by external dignitaries, trainings, workshops and a gradual exposure to the new IFRIS application. The Demo of newly developed application to Process / e-Champions and the exposure to Financial Accounting System has been given to the people to adapt to the envisaged change.

e-Champions the Active Change agents have been identified from all the institutes for Change management in order to manage the adoption of application at all levels of organization. Three e-Champions Training-cum-Workshops have been conducted till date viz.;



1 st	ICFRE, Dehradun	21 st April '08 to 25 th April '08
2 nd	IWST, Bangalore	16 th June '08 to 20 th June '08
3 rd	HFRI, Shimla	29 th Sept '08 to 03 rd Oct '08

IT INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES AT ICFRE

MPLS-VPN Network backbone was obtained from BSNL with the primary function of an integrated ICFRE Wide Area Network to connect all regional institutes and all centers across the country to the ICFRE Hqrs. It is a centralized deployment model with Network Operation Centre (NOC) at Dehradun Hqrs. and operational since March 2008.

Video Conferencing facility for ICFRE and Institutes is proving a boon for e-Governance developments at ICFRE and Institutes. The facility is being used by officials to eliminate geographical distances and take active participation in trainings and workshops conducted across institutes and is operational since May 2008.

ICFRE Server Farm (Data Centre) the data center for IFRIS Deployment become essential and an activity for its deployment was initiated. The process of establishment of ICFRE Server Farm has involved the of EoI and RFP and finally the contract has been awarded to the successful bidder and is likely to be in place by June 2009.

The ICFRE Server Farm shall be hosting the IFRIS Application and other allied key services like :

- Database, portal and application Service
- Email, DNS and proxy Service
- Antivirus other security products like Firewall
- Content filtering services like Anti- SPAM, Anti-Spyware etc
- Suitable Data Backup and Recovery systems

OTHER ICT INITIATIVES

The National database may be linked with research project database in forestry and allied subjects. ICFRE may extend its facility to the sister concerns for the uploading and maintain databases on the Research, Extension and other allied subjects. The Universities, State Forest Institute and NGO's may be provided space in Central Repository for forestry. The information about NFLIC resources like books, journals, extension material will be available through Internet and Intranet.

Accessibility to the ICFRE Server Farm (Data Center) would be through Intranet and Internet anywhere anytime. The connectivity is based on the MPLS-VPN backbone which is scalable and connecting any other node is easy and cost effective. Connectivity to the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) is also envisaged by connecting the regional institutes to the SWAN Network. Horizontal linkages with HIM-SWAN (In Himachal with HFRI Shimla) is been taken up on Pilot basis for extending the reach of ICFRE services to remote areas through citizen service centres (CSCs)

e-PARIVARTAN

The ICFRE Newsletter "e-Parivartan" was initiated with an aim to give insight into the e-Governance developments in ICFRE, its institute / research centers located in different geographical region across the country. The newsletter aims to increase awareness of the IFRIS Project. It is a forum to share the news and views of the Management, the e-champions, users and the developers of the system. The issues of e-Parivartan are available on the ICFRE Website.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT :

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e-Governance @ICFRE



*tracing the path
to e-Governance
in ICFRE.....*



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