

## **Educational Tour of Post Graduate Students and Faculty Members From Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh): A Report**

Educational tours for the students in general are quite valuable since, such visits provide the students, various opportunities to learn and interact invariably helping them to keep pace with the ever changing scenario around and especially in the research arena. As a part of post-graduate programme, 12 M.Sc. (Zoology-Entomology) post-graduate students along with 2 faculty members, lead by Dr. S.I. Ahmed, Former Scientist-G, ICFRE, Dehradun, now serving in the Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh as a faculty visited Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Head, Forest Protection Division, welcomed the visiting team of students and faculty members to the institute and outlined the time scheduled of various activities to be carried out during the day long visit. Later, Dr. Ranjeet Singh invited Dr. V. P. Tewari, Director, HFRI to formally welcome the team and also to share his views with the students on incidences of different pests on the various tree species. While addressing the students, he informed that insect-pest incidences contribute significantly toward the drying process of indigenous as well as exotic plants and trees planted in this fragile Himalayan ecosystem. He emphasised upon students to perform dedicatedly in their respective fields. Once the Director, HFRI, finished with his address, Dr. Ashwani Tapwal, Scientist, HFRI gave a brief presentation on the ongoing research activities of the institute, followed by another presentation of Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Coordinator of this visit. He made detailed presentation on the importance of Insect-pests of forest trees and their management for maintaining the healthy planting stock in the nurseries and in forest as well. He also brought the attention of visiting students towards the large scale out-break of Deodar defoliator in Deodar forest in outer Himalayas and answered the queries raised by the students and faculty members.

Presentations were followed by an interactive session. While interacting with the faculty, the visiting students from AMU University showed their keen interest in short duration summer courses and internship at the Institute.

Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator (Research) in the concluding session thanked the students in general and Dr. S.I. Ahmed, in particular for choosing HFRI for this Visit. After this briefing of the visiting students, Dr. Pawan Kumar took them to various research Laboratories and Herbarium of the Institute and the students were appraised about the ongoing experiments/ activities in the Forest Protection Laboratory. In the end, Dr. Ayesha Qamar Associate Prof., AMU thanked Director, HFRI, Shimla for facilitating their visit to the Institute and also for having detailed discussion on various aspects of forestry and forestry research in general and deliberation on Forest Entomology in particular. She also expressed her keen interest to have collaborative research with HFRI in future for which Director, HFRI, agreed for providing technical cooperation in this regard.

## Glimpse of the Visit



## Presentation and Laboratory Visit





