



ICFRE NEWSLETTER

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Vast areas in the foreground by the bank of river Bandal in Mal Deota near Dehradun completely seized by *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn. (Congress Grass; Carrot Weed; Gajar Ghas) - An aggressive invader from Neotropical Region.

Photo : S.S. Jain

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Grant-in-Aid to the Universities

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) provides financial support to the Universities imparting forestry education in the country in order to strengthen infrastructural facilities for the forestry faculties. Grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 251.70 lakhs was released to the 06 universities up to September 2007. Among the beneficiaries are (i) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, (ii) FRI University, Dehradun, (iii) HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, (iv) University of Agriculture, Dharwad, (v) Allahabad Agricultural Institute Deemed University, Allahabad, and (vi) Gujarat Agricultural University, Navsari.

Research Support System is Decentralized

For smooth conduct of Forestry Research in the ICFRE Institutes, Research Support System mechanism through award of fellowship as JRFs/SFRs/RAs work has been decentralized and handed over to the Directors of concerned institutes.

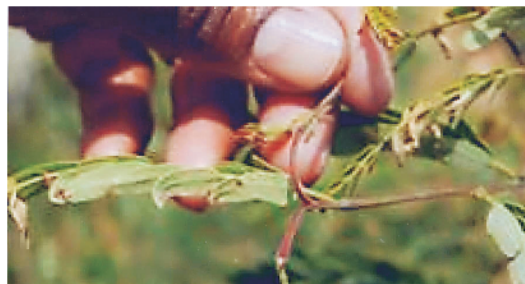
Policy Research

Work on Policy Research related to forestry sector on technical, sociological, policy and programme related issues have been initiated by the ICFRE. A Policy Research Advisory Committee of ICFRE under the chairmanship of Additional Director General (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi has been constituted. The key research issues/ topics have been identified and work has been initiated by outsourcing the studies on:

- i. Need for an Institutional and Regulatory mechanism for certification of Planting Stock material of forest seeds and vegetative origin.
- ii. Analyzing the linkage between poverty alleviation and forestry programmes.

Intra specific Hybridization in Tamarind

Tamarindus indica (Tamarind) is a potential multipurpose forest genetic resource, awaiting large-scale domestication. Virtually every part has some value of commerce, particularly in the subsistence of rural people. It grows in wide agro-climatic conditions and could emerge as a potential tree crop in the



Phenotypic variation in *Tamarindus indica*



Full sib trial of *Tamarindus indica* at Kolapakkam (Tamil Nadu)

livelihood of the arid and semi-arid regions. Usually tamarind produces fruits that contain brown colour pulp. There exists red tamarind, a natural intra specific variant, having rich anthocyanin content in their fruits and stems that are of potential use in food colour industry. In natural conditions red tamarinds occur very rarely. With the support of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, an initiative was made to combine the red variant with brown pulp tamarind. In Tamil Nadu there are about 40 regular high pulp yielding selections.

Conservation strategy for *Rheum moorcroftianum* Royle

Rheum moorcroftianum Royle of the family Polygonaceae is a robust perennial herb with large basal leaves and has 1-3 erect cylindrical hairy spikes of greenish flowers turning to reddish as the fruit matures. The flowering and fruiting occurs during the months of June and July.

It is distributed from Himachal Pradesh to Nepal between 3600-4700 m above mean sea level. During floristic survey in the state of Himachal Pradesh the plant has been found in open slopes in drier areas of Giavung Valley in cold desert of district Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh) between



Rheum moorcroftianum Royle

3700–4200 m above mean sea level.

Keeping in view the medicinal uses and threat status of the species, there is an urgent need for its conservation.

Assessment of genetic diversity among and within the provenances of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* Sm. using ISSR-PCR

Genetic diversity among fifteen International provenances of *E. tereticornis* was estimated by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore using inter simple sequence repeats (ISSR-PCR). Seven ISSR primers amplified a total of 663 amplicons in the size ranging from 255 to 2711 bp. The number of polymorphic bands in the provenances varied from 59 to 123 with 100% polymorphic banding profiles. The genetic diversity generated by Shannon's information index ranged from 0.066 for Cardwell provenance to 0.132 for S.W Mt Garnet provenance. The total gene diversity estimated in the present study was low ($H_T = 0.130$) when compared to earlier reports on other eucalypts species. The assessment of intra and inter genetic variation can be used for *Eucalyptus* improvement programme.

Variation in fuelwood properties of *C. equisetifolia*, *E. hybrid* and *A. auriculaeformis*

A detailed study of variation of fuelwood properties (proximate and elemental analysis) of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Eucalyptus* hybrid and *Acacia auriculaeformis* with age and height of tree was carried out at Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bangalore. According to the study, fuel properties of *E. hybrid* and *A. auriculaeformis* are not significantly affected by the harvesting age. Therefore, it can be recommended that plantations should aim towards increasing the biomass yield by adopting proper silvicultural methods when grown for bio-energy purposes. The results of this study also suggested that the fuel properties of *C. equisetifolia* are better in mature trees as compared to lower age trees.

Global Initiative on Forests and Climate

Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Director General, ICFRE participated in a High-Level Meeting on Forests and Climate organized under the 'Global Initiative on Forests and Climate' of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Aus AID and Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Government of Australia from 23rd to 25th July 2007 at Sydney, Australia on nomination by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.

Consultancies

ICFRE completed two consultancy projects on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and formulation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for (1) Kotlibhel Hydroelectric Project stage II (530 MW), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd., Tehri and Pauri Garhwal and (2) Catchment Area Treatment Plan studies for exploitation of bauxite deposits in Galikonda, Rakthakonda and Chittamgondi of Visakhapatanam district awarded by Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (APMDC), Hyderabad.



Proposed dam site for Kotlibhel hydroelectric project

Consultancy on Environment Impact Assessment studies and Environment Management Plan for Renukaji Dam Project in Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh was awarded by Pabbar Valley Power Corporation Limited, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, Shimla to ICFRE.

Meetings organized

Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur organized a "stakeholder's meet" on 15th September 2007 at Jaipur to identify new emerging research problems, research themes, and thrust areas. The national forestry research plan has prioritized research problems and research themes of this area.

The second meeting of the steering committee for organization of "UNESCO-





The second meeting of the steering committee at AFRI, Jodhpur

MAB International dry land Eco-system workshop” was held at AFRI, Jodhpur on 27th September 2007.

IFGTB, Coimbatore organized a meeting for formulation of an All India co-ordinated research project on tackling Gall incidence in Eucalyptus in collaboration with Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore (PDBC), Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi (KFRI) and research Institute/centers under the ICFRE. Prof. V.V. Ramamurthy from IARI, New Delhi also attended the meeting.

RAG Meetings organized

AFRI, Jodhpur organized the meeting of the “Research Advisory Group (RAG)” from 21st to 23rd September 2007. In the meeting 33 ongoing projects and 5 new projects were discussed after their presentation by the scientists of AFRI.

Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP), Ranchi held IX Research Advisory Group Meeting on 6th and 7th September 2007.

Seminars organized

IFGTB, Coimbatore organized National Seminar on “Implications of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 to Forest Sector” on 4th and 5th July 2007. The seminar was presided over by Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, Managing Director, Karnataka State Forest Industries Corporation, Bangalore. Dr. S. Nagaranjan, Chairperson, PPV and FR Authority, New Delhi inaugurated the seminar and delivered key note address.

Workshops organized

Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat organized two days' Expert Consultation Workshop on “Shifting Cultivation” on 1st and 2nd August 2007 in collaboration with North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur, Assam.



Inaugural session of workshop on shifting cultivation

A one-day consultative workshop on “Sustainable Land Use Planning through Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Application” was organized on 7th September 2007 at HFRI, Shimla in which 35 participants from the State Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh, Research Organization dealing in Forestry, Universities, representative from the Non-Governmental Organizations and Progressive Farmers participated. Dr. Devendra Pandey, IFS, Director General, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun gave the key note address and said that the establishment of GIS for management of forests on scientific lines would be one of the priorities in the 11th Five Year Plan. Shri Ashok Thakur, IAS, Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest of this workshop.



One-day consultative workshop at HFRI, Shimla

IFGTB, Coimbatore organized a National Workshop on “Identifying Stakeholders and Capacity Building needs in Forest Genetic Resource Conservation” on 11th July 2007.

A National Workshop on “Prioritization and Characterization of Fast Growing Native Tree Resources” was also organized by IFGTB, Coimbatore on 8th and 9th August 2007. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri N.S. Adkoli, Chairman, Bamboo Society of India. The representatives from paper and match wood industries i.e. ITC, Hindustan News Print Ltd., and Wasan Match Industries Ltd. also attended the workshop.



One-day Regional Workshop on "Forestry Statistics" at AFRI, Jodhpur

AFRI, Jodhpur organized a one-day regional workshop on "Forestry Statistics" at AFRI on 18th September 2007 under the ICFRE-ITTO project with the aim to sensitize the agencies and at the same time to get the feedback from the SFDs regarding problems being faced in collection, compiling and sending the required data on these formats.

AFRI, Jodhpur organized a one-day workshop on "Guggul Cultivation, Production and Collection" at the Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur with collaboration of forest department, Rajasthan, and National Medicinal Plant Board, New Delhi with an aim to prepare road map for sustained availability of Guggul for the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha industries in the country. Shri Ong Chye Lye, an international forester from Malaysia also attended the workshop.

Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun hosted a three days training programme on "International Forest Standards and Securing Certification" in collaboration with Quality Council of India. The training program was inaugurated by Shri Jagdish Kishwan, IFS, Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun on 28th August 2007. Dr. Michel Brink, an international expert on forest certification from South Africa, Mr. Avik Mitra from Quality Council of India (An autonomous body for accreditation under Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and senior Forest Officers from Uttarakhand including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri B.S. Burfal, Shri D.V.S. Khati, Chief Conservator of Forests were also participated in the workshop.



Training on "International Forest Standards and Securing Certification" at FRI, Dehradun

Trainings organized

FRI, Dehradun organized a short-term training course on "Seed Technology" from 2nd to 5th July 2007 for the field staff of Mid Himalayan Watershed Development Project, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department.



Short-term training course on "Seed Technology" at FRI, Dehradun

FRI, Dehradun organized a short-term training course on "Development of Green Belt" from 20th to 24th August 2007. The participants were from ACC Cement, KRIBHCO, IFFCO, NABARD, Tata Steel, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, DVC, Punjab and Uttarakhand Forest Departments, APGENCO, BPCL Mumbai and Numaligarh (Assam), NTPC, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, THDLC.



Short-term training course on "Development of Green Belt" at FRI, Dehradun

FRI, Dehradun organized short-term training courses on "Eco-restoration of Wastelands" and "Wood Seasoning" in September 2007.

RFRI, Jorhat imparted training on "Creation of Bamboo Nursery and Commercial Cultivation of Bamboo" to the Executive staffs of Dholla Tea Estate, Tinsukia (Assam) on 24th July 2007 and to the Managerial staff of Galekey Tea Estate, Assam on 17th August 2007.

RFRI, Jorhat imparted training on "Scientific Management of Bamboo in Nursery, Plantation, and Storage" on 19th September 2007 for farmers, sponsored by Science and Society Division, Department of Science &





Inauguration of the training on "Scientific Management of Bamboos in Nursery, Plantation and Storage" by Shri E. Meru, IFS

Technology (DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi. The trainees were from NGOs, and SHGs, etc. Individual bamboo cultivators also participated in the training programme.

HFRI, Shimla organized a training for farmers on "Commercial Cultivation of Medicinal Plants" at village Janna and Sajala in Kullu Valley on 10th and 11th July 2007. The training was conducted under the project funded by National Medicinal Plants Board, (NMPB) Government of India, New Delhi.

HFRI, Shimla under NMPB Project conducted a one day camp workshop on "Medicinal Plants Cultivation" at village Baigain, near Haripurdhar, district Sirmour, falling in Renuka Forest Division of Himachal Pradesh to sensitize the village communities and farmers towards cultivation practices of medicinal plants on 17th August 2007.

HFRI, Shimla conducted training on the "Insect Pests of Ban Oak and Management of Defoliators" on 12th September 2007, in the "Block Resource Coordination Center (BRCC) for Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA)" at Sarahan, of Sirmour district, Himachal Pradesh. There were 40 trainees including foresters, villagers, farmers, school teachers, school students (+10 standard) as well as 3 instructors of BRC, CSSA.



Field demonstration of Burlap Trap at HFRI, Shimla

IWST, Bangalore organized a short-term training on "Wood Protection (Seasoning, Preservation and Biodegradation)" from 20th



Short-term training at IWST, Bangalore

to 24th August 2007 for trainees from Government/Private Sector.

Centre for Forestry Research and Human Resource Development (CFRHRD), Chhindwara conducted a one-day training programme on "Agroforestry with special reference to medicinal plants" on 10th July 2007. Twenty five participants attended the training programme.



Training on "Agroforestry with special reference to medicinal plants at Chhindwara

CFRHRD, Chhindwara conducted a one-day training programme for farmers on "Cultivation of medicinal plants" at Forest School, Betul on 24th August 2007.

Miscellaneous

Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE, Dehradun attended 10 days training course on micro-meteorological measurement and CO₂ flux measurements during 17th to 26th July 2007 at Yousei University, Seoul, Korea. The training was organized by Asia Flux, a network of CO₂ flux study sites in Asia Grant-in-Aid to the Universities.

Van Mahotsava

FRI, Dehradun celebrated 58th "Van Mahotsava" on 20th July 2007 at Village Barowala, Dehradun. Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Director General, ICFRE was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

IFP, Ranchi celebrated "Van Mahotsava" on 17th July 2007. Tree planting was done in the campus to mark the occasion.



58th Van Mahotsava at Gaushala Maidan, Jodhpur

AFRI, Jodhpur celebrated the “58th Van Mahotsava” at Gaushala Maidan, Jodhpur on 7th July 2007 in collaboration with urban improvement trust, Jodhpur. The function was held under the chair of Mrs. Surya Kanta Vyas, MLA, Jodhpur city and the chief guest of the function was Shri Rajender Gehlot, Chairman, UIT, Jodhpur. More than 100 plants were planted by dignitaries, officials of AFRI and school children of Madhuban public school.

Exhibition Sanskriti-Sarokar and Sankalp

AFRI, Jodhpur organized an exhibition “Sanskriti-Sarokar and Sankalp” in Gaushala maidan, arranged by Jodhpur district administration on the occasion of 60th Independence day celebrations in Jodhpur, from 13th to 16th August 2007. The exhibition was inaugurated on 13th August by Smt. Vasundhara Raje, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The Institute exhibited various research findings/works in the exhibition. Two models depicting the natural sand drift conditions and bio-drainage were displayed in the stall. Brochures on medicinal plants, food from forests etc. were distributed in the exhibition.



Exhibition at Gaushala Maidan, Jodhpur

Publications

IFGTB, Coimbatore published an information brochure-cum-entry ticket on Gass Forest Museum.

HFRI, Shimla published a booklet titled, “Aushdhiya Paudhon Ki Krishikaran Taknik” to generate awareness about conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants amongst the farmers and other stakeholders. The booklet was released by Dr. Pankaj Khullar, PCCF, Himachal Pradesh.

IFP, Ranchi published a number of booklets on useful medicinal plants.

Visit of dignitaries

- Thiru S. Regupathy, Hon'ble Minister of State, Forests & Wildlife, Government of India visited ICFRE (H.Q.) and FRI, Dehradun on 12th July 2007.
- Ms. Meena Gupta, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests visited ICFRE (H.Q.) and FRI, Dehradun on 1st August 2007.
- Thirty two Civil servants from Afghanistan visited FRI, Dehradun on 17th August 2007.
- Thiru S. Regupathy, Hon'ble Minister of State, Forests & Wildlife, Government of India visited FRI, Dehradun on 20th August 2007.
- Thiru S. Regupathy, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Govt. of India visited IWST, Bangalore on 31st July 2007.
- Ms. Meena Gupta, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests visited IWST, Bangalore on 7th September 2007.



Ms. Meena Gupta being welcomed at IWST, Bangalore

- Dr. A. Boaz, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, Colombo visited IFGTB, Coimbatore on 24th September 2007.
- Thiru S. Regupathy, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests,



Welcome of Hon'ble Minister by staff of HFRI , Shimla



Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi visited HFRI, Shimla on 18th September 2007. Dr. Pankaj Khullar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Shri R.K. Sood, IFS, Additional Principal Conservator of Forests and other senior Forest Officers of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department were also present during the visit of the Hon'ble Minister.

Awards

During the Silver Jubilee Celebration of NABARD held on 11th August 2007 at Ranchi. His Excellency, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi, Governor of Jharkhand awarded Certificate of Recognition to the Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi for undertaking NABARD supported research project on "Identification, Collection and Genetic Evaluation of Important Oil Yielding Trees of Jharkhand".

Staff News

Promotions

Dehradun	
Shri J.C. Wahal, E & AO, ICFRE	03.07.2007
Shri V.K. Dhawan, Research Officer, FRI	05.07.2007
Dr. Lokho Puni, Conservator of Forests, FRI	08.08.2007
Shri R.K. Mishra, Research Officer, FRI	09.07.2007

Appointments

Shri. Anurag Bhardwaj, IFS (Raj:93), ICFRE	05.09.2007
Shri R.K. Singh, IFS (AGMUT : 86), CF, TFRI, Jabalpur	26.09.2007
Shri Tara Chand, Scientist-B, RFRI, Jorhat	28.09.2007

Repatriation

Shri S. Senthil Kumar, IFS (AGMUT : 98), DCF, TFRI, Jabalpur	06.08.2007
Dr. K.S. Shashidhar, IFS, Director, IWST, Bangalore	07.08.2007

Joining

Shri Ramesh Chand, Mazdoor, HFRI, Shimla	03.09.2007
Shri Binoy Kr. Mishra, SFS, IFP, Ranchi	21.09.2007

Transfers

Dr. S.P. Singh, Scientist-B, IWST, Bangalore	27.08.2007
Dr. D.L. Nandeshwar, Scientist-'C', ICFRE, Dehradun	17.09.2007

Retirements

Shri J.C. Wahal, E&AO, ICFRE	31.07.2007
Shri A.K. Upadhyay, RA-I (Gen.), FRI	31.07.2007
Shri R.S. Bisht, RA-I (Gen.), FRI	31.07.2007
Shri Rameshwar Prasad, TA-III (Gen.), FRI	31.07.2007
Shri K.S. Negi, Scientist-B, TFRI, Jabalpur	31.08.2007
Shri Daya Ram, Jamadar Khalasi, FRI	31.08.2007
Shri Om Prakash Pal, Khalasi, FRI	31.08.2007
Smt. Pushpa Talwar, O.S., FRI	30.09.2007
Smt. Surendra Kaur, Khalasi, FRI	30.09.2007
Shri Attar Singh, Gestner Operator, FRI	30.09.2007

Voluntary Retirement

Smt. Shivabhushanam, Khalasi, IWST, Bangalore	10.08.2007
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Resignation from ICFRE Service

Dr. D.L. Nandeshwar, Scientist-C, TFRI, Jabalpur	17.09.2007
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OBITUARY

ICFRE family deeply condoles the sudden and sad demise of Shri Tej Bahadur, Mazdoor, ICFRE, Dehradun on 28.08.2007 and Smt. Sangeeta Dhiman, O.S. ICFRE on 20.09.2007 and prays for the peace of the departed souls.

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Shri Jagdish Kishwan, DG, ICFRE

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