

Shilly Nursery, Solan

Shilly nursery is one of the oldest nurseries of the institute was established during 1980. The nursery is located at 1550 m elevation (77° 54.424' E and 30° 07.551' N) in northwestern aspect about 3 km away from Solan town on Solan- Jaunaji link road and surrounded by Shilly Wild Life Sanctuary and UHF-Solan nursery. The total area of Shilly nursery is around 1.5 ha. The main species of the area is Deodar & Ban-Oak and the site is well suited for the cultivation of medicinal plants of mid Himalayan region. In the past two decades the nursery was mainly used for carrying out studies on Poplar, Salix, Oak, Paulownia & Deodar. Some of the past achievements from this nursery are given below:

Past Achievements:

- This nursery had been extensively used for the mass production of Poplar plants during UNDP project (1992-1998).
- 238 *Populus deltoides* clones were tested in nursery and on the basis of nursery performance, clone namely G-3 and 2504 were identified as best performers under mid hill conditions.
- Provenance trial in *Populus ciliata* revealed that provenances of Chamba (H.P.) and Fatehpur (J&K) were better than others.
- In species trial of Salix, the species *Salix contorta* performed best compared to other Salix species.
- In an experiment on depth of sowing in *Quercus leucotrichophora* (Ban-Oak), the 2 cm depth of sowing was found optimum for obtaining best results in nursery germination.
- In seed source trial of Deodar, Ani (Kullu) source excelled in growth parameter where as survival was better in local seed source.
- In Ban Oak (*Quercus leucotrichophora*) seed source trial, Karol (Solan) source performed better than other seed sources.
- In the introduction trial of Paulownia, species, *Paulownia tomentosa* adopted well to mid hill conditions compared to *Paulownia fortunei*.

On Going Plan Projects/ Works:

- Determination of nursery requirements and initial planting performance of *Diploknema butyracea* (Roxb.) H. J. Lam and *Myrica esculenta* Buch. Ham. under mid-hill conditions of Himachal Himalayas". Under this project,

nursery experiments on raising Cheura and Kaphal nursery stock is being conducted at this nursery.

- QPM of *Valerina jatamasi* under SMPB small nursery (Shilly) project is being raised here along with creation of additional infrastructure at this nursery.
- Germplasm of the 20 medicinal plants species in the nursery for research, demonstration and training purposes are being maintained.



Quality nursery stock of *Quercus leucotrichophora*



Cheura in Nursery



View of Shilly Nursery

Manpower:

Sh. Narender Sain, Forester.