

XVIIIth Research Advisory Group Meeting

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

(7th October, 2016)

With a view to promote better coordination and to infuse utility oriented forestry research input and also to advise the Director of the Institute in the matter of formulating and planning of the various research activities so as to face the challenging needs in the sector of forestry research, **Research Advisory Group (RAG)** for the Institute was approved by the Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun.

In view of the mandate of RAG, which mainly revolves around giving directions and bringing innovations in the forestry research to be carried out, the Annual Research Advisory Group Meeting of HFRI, Shimla was held on **7th October, 2016** in the Conference Hall of the institute. The meeting provided an opportunity not only to review the progress of ongoing projects, examination, prioritization of new research proposals but also to take maximum benefits of the expertise of Hon'ble RAG Members on various research issues.

At the outset, **Dr. KS Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research**, of the institute initiated the day's proceedings. **Dr. VP Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla** welcomed the Hon'ble RAG members and briefed the august house about the constitution of RAG and its mandate. Subsequently, a brief presentation encompassing introduction, research activities and various achievements of the institute was made by the GCR. A briefing about the process to be adopted for scoring was also made with reference to the new projects to be placed before RAG.



Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (RP), Dr. T.P. Singh, IFS, ADG (BCC) and Dr. S.P.S. Rawat, ADG (M&E), ICFRE, who were nominated by the Director General, ICFRE for attending the meeting through Video Conferencing from ICFRE headquarters could not make it to attend the same due to network failure both at HFRI, Shimla and ICFRE headquarters.

Sh. A.C. Sharma, IFS, APCCF (Finance); Dr. Vijay Lakshmi Tewari, IFS, APCCF, HPSFD, Shimla; Sh. H.S. Dogra, IFS, APCCF (Floral Diversity, NTFP & Res. Mgmt.) HPSFD, Karnodi, Sundernagar, Mandi (HP); Prof. K.S. Verma, Director (Extension), Deptt. of Environment of Sciences, UHF, Nauni, Solan (HP); Dr. A.K. Ramdev, Dean's Nominee, College of Forestry, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni; Dr. Maninderjeet Kaur, Member Secretary, Himalayan Research Group, Shimla; Sh Mela Ram

Sharma, Progressive Farmer, Village Dandibag, Shimla; Dr. SS Samant, Scientist In-charge, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kullu Unit, MOHAL, Kullu; Dr. Sunil Agrawal, Officer In-charge, Seed Division, DST, MoS&T, New Delhi; Dr. R.S. Minhas, Chairman, HIMOARD, Khaneri (Rampur) Shimla were the other members of RAG, who participated in the deliberations.

Sh. A.C. Sharma, APCCF (Finance) from HPSFD attended the meeting on behalf of PCCF, HPSFD, who could not participate at the last moment due to some unavoidable circumstances. In his address, Sh. Sharma made an earnest request to all the Hon'ble members of RAG and others present to give the best of their input so that the financial, human and physical resources be utilized in the best possible way. While talking on the research agenda, he exhorted upon the scientists that the issues like Climate Change, which is likely to stress all the forest ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, genetic improvement should be given their due.

After this, **04 new multi-disciplinary / multi-institutional presentations** of the research proposals under different themes and thrust areas were presented before the Hon'ble members. These proposals were agreed to in principle with some modifications suggested wherever appropriate and were recommended for consideration of the Research Policy Committee. Besides, the progress of the ongoing research projects as well as those of external funding agencies were presented and discussed. All the members present in the meeting showed satisfaction on the progress made under these projects.

At the end of the day, Director HFRI thanked all the members of the RAG for smooth conduct of the meeting during wrap up session.

SOME CLIPPINGS OF THE MEETING




