



Report on Webinar on “Guidelines and Procedures for Clone/Variety Release of Forestry Species”

A webinar on “Guidelines and procedures for clone/variety release of forestry species” was organized by the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla on January 06, 2022 in the Conference Hall of the Institute. The webinar was organized as per the recommendation of Annual Review meeting 2020-21 of ICFRE funded project entitled “**Identification, Ecological Assessments for Selection & Screening of Superior and Insect-Pest Resistant Clones of *Salix* for their Cultivation and Conservation in the Cold Deserts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir**” held on 16 June 2021. The objective of this webinar was to understand the guideline and various steps of clone/variety release of forestry tree species and medicinal plants. The Webinar was organized under the guidance of **The Director, HFRI, Dr. S.S. Samant** and **Group Coordinator Research, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-G**. A total of 80 participants including Scientists/Academicians, Officers and Research Scholars of the ICFRE institutes and other organizations participated in the Webinar either physically or virtually. At the beginning of the program, Dr. Balkrishna Tiwari, Convener of the Webinar welcomed the Director, HFRI, Shimla, GCR, Head of Divisions, Scientists, Officers and the Resource Persons, **Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra Scientist-G, IFP, Ranchi; Dr. Ashok Kumar, Scientist-G, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun; Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj, Principal Scientist, Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan and Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist-G, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore** and all the participants connected virtually and apprised them about the objectives and schedule of the webinar. Further, **The Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla** in his Inaugural Address, told about the research work being carried out related to the development of clones/varieties in the Institute and highlighted the importance of Webinar in this context. Along with this, he also thanked all the Resource Persons for accepting the invitation to deliver lectures in the Webinar. He hoped that all the participants associated with the program would be benefitted.

First speaker of the Webinar, **Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra** shared his experiences on **various steps** to register and release the varieties of medicinal plants with reference of *Rauvolfia serpentina* (Sarpagandha). Further, **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj** highlighted the breeding methods to develop a new variety and subsequent release. The next speaker **Dr. Ashok Kumar**

discussed regarding the structure of Regional and National Variety Testing Committee and their role in evaluation of trial and certification of new clones/varieties. He also shared his vast experiences on genetic improvement on *Melia dubia* and *Azadirachta indica* (Neem). **Dr. A. Nicodemus** enlightened the participants with his experiences on development of *Casuarina* clones and their hybrids. He also emphasized on the selection of genetically superior plants for the development of new clones/varieties of forestry species and discussed all the aspects related to their testing at the regional and national level trials. During panel discussion session **Dr. Sanjeev K. Chauhan**, Head, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana discussed about the performance and future prospects of Poplar, *Eucalyptus*, *Melia dubia* and *Casuarina* clones in the Agroforestry sector in Punjab and Haryana. All the Resource Persons also highlighted the importance of new clones/varieties in the economic progress of the farmers in the present scenario.

Dr. Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute summarized the contribution of all the speakers and highly appreciated their efforts. He also highly appreciated the efforts made by the Convener, Co-convener and staffs of the institute and thanked all the participants. At the end of the program, **Shri Pravin Rawat**, Co-convener of the Webinar thanked the Director of the Institute, Resource Persons, Panelists and all the participants including Scientists, Officers, Employees and Research Scholars for their contribution in making the program a grand success.

Some Glimpses of the Program





