







مَنْهَ هُمَ اللَّهِ केंद्र शासित प्रदेश जम्मू व कश्मीर के वन मृदा स्वास्थ्य कार्ड से संबन्धित परामर्श बैठक' का आयोजन (12 मार्च,2025) STAKEHOLDER'S CONSULTATION MEET ON FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS

(FSHCs) FOR UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ICFRE- Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla organised a consultative meeting on FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir in hybrid mode at Forest Resources Management Centre (FRMC), Jammu on dated 12 March, 2025. Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Jammu & Kashmir Forest department chaired the meeting. Besides, Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF/CEO,CAMPA, Dr Suneesh Buxy,IFS, Addl. PCCF/Director, Social Forestry, Dr. K. Anandh,IFS, CCF and Nodal Officer FCA and other Senior Officers attended the meeting physically. The CCFs, CFs from Circles and Divisional Forest Officers of 31 forest divisions of J&K, Scientists of ICFRE institutes joined the meeting virtually.

In the beginning, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director, HFRI extended a warm welcome to Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta PCCF& HOFF (J&K.), distinguished forest officers and other participants of the meeting. In his address, Dr. Sandeep Sharma highlighted the importance of forest soils and apprised that HFRI, Shimla was given the task of preparations of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) of Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh, under one of the All India Coordinated Research Project titled 'Preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards Under different Forest Vegetation in all the Forest Divisions of India (AICRP-22). He informed that FSHCs has been prepared after collection of soil samples from different forest class including the degraded areas, non-forest areas and scrub forests. Dr. Sandeep Sharma said that main objective of preparation of forest soil health cards is to find out the status of forest soils in terms of availability of different macro and micro nutrients to the plants, address the existing knowledge gaps in management of forest soils, understanding the soil related constraints particularly of degraded areas and suggesting recommendations for improvement in the nutrient deficient soils for success of plantation activities. During the technical session, Dr. V.P. Panwar, Scientist-F, FRI, Dehradun and National Project Coordinator (NPC) gave a presentation elucidating the genesis, implementation, and key outcomes of the project. Dr. Panwar said that healthy soils play key role in sustainable growth of forests and plantations. He told that the pilot initiative of preparation of FSHCs has been taken after thorough discussions & deliberations. GIS & RS based methodology framework, statistically validated soil sampling locations and uniform analytical protocols has been adopted in this project. The stressed that project activities are aimed at management of soil fertility related status in degraded areas. Further, NPC added that capacity building programmes has also been proposed under the project to impart training to front-line functionaries on soil test based nutrient management, *etc*.

Then, Dr. R.K.Verma, Scientist –G & Project Investigator (PI) of AICRP-22 from HFRI gave a detailed presentation of the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir. In his presentation, he elaborated about quantum of samples collected from each forest divisions of J&K covering the Very dense, Moderately dense, Open Forests, Scrub Forests and Non-Forest areas. In addition, he explicated about the standard analytical protocols used for estimating the 12 comprehensive parameters. Further, he discussed in detail the methodology for drawing reference range and calculation of divisionwise test values. Dr. Verma also shared the FSHCs of Anatnag, Lidder, Udhampur, Jammu, Sambha and Kathua forest divisions and spell out the contents of Cards.

After the presentations by NPC and PI, comments/inputs of the stakeholders were invited. Detailed discussion were held on the contents of FSHCs and officers of forest department provided useful insights for refinement of the cards.

Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF, enquired about the bench mark for reference range of forest types found in Jammu and Kashmir provinces. The PI clarified that the value has been calculated on the basis of dataset of soil characterisation found in VDF, MDF forests occurring both in Jammu as well as Kashmir Province. Moreover, outlier values have been removed from the dataset and subquently standards were calculated for entire state/UT.

Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS, Addl.PCCF/Director, Social Forestry apprehended about the use of in-organic fertilizers in forest ecosystems and pointed out that biological supplements like VAM etc., has not been suggested Cards. NPC endorsed the concern of using fertilizers in forest ecosystems and said that due care has been taken to work out the recommendations both for organics and in-organics. He added that twelve chemical parameters for estimation has been taken in line with Agriculture Soil Health Cards and

biological component was not embraced due to limits of budget. Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS, Addl.PCCF/Director suggested the need of knowing holistic soil health.

Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF asserted that as compartment is the smallest unit of management and it will be better to ascertain the soil health at range level or compartment level. Dr. Panwar explained that initially the idea of preparation of FSHCs at smallest management unit level was considered, but due to huge quantum of soil samples to be collected and analysed, later on Forest division was selected for soil sampling and statistically validated sampling points have been drawn for different forest divisions. Never the less, there is ample scope of replicating the study at compartment level in further phases of project. Similarly, suggestions for working out the C/N ratio and species wise nutrient requirement of forest crops were given. Finally, the discussions were summed up.

Thereafter, Sh. S.K. Gupta, IFS Chairman of the meeting addressed the participants. In his concluding address, he emphasised on the various aspects related to forest soil ecosystem and talked at length about the myriad ecosystems services provided by forest soils. He expressed serious concern over the degradation of soils attributed to varied reasons. In Jammu and Kashmir perspective, he said that though the forest wealth is profuse but issues like degraded areas, shallow soils at places, poor nutrient status, less success in plantation activities cannot be overlooked. Appreciating the efforts of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, he said that initiative of preparing the FSHCs is praiseworthy and the information given in the cards will be useful for concerned forest departments of different states and UTs. He also insisted to translate the contents of the FSHCs in Urdu for making the cards more useful to the field functionaries of forest department in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The proceedings of the meeting were moderated by Dushyant Kumar, Sr. Technical Officer HFRI and it concluded with formal vote of thanks.

+ Glimpses of Meeting +















Media Snippets

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Soil Health Cards for J&K Forests on anvil

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 12

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun under Ministry of Environment. Forests & Climate Change has launched a project to pre-pare Forest Soil Health Cards in the country.

The exercise in J&K has een taken up by Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla under the aegis of ICFRE. Under the project, samples of soils were collected from different territorial forest divisions. The samoles were analyzed and data obtained has been shared with the J & K Forest Department for inputs.

In this regard, a consulta-tive meeting on FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir was organized at Forest Resources Managenent Centre Jammu today. The meeting was chaired

IN THE COURT OF THE NAIB TENSILDAR (EMIC) DALSAR oshalaya varsus Block Development Officer Ramnagar, pplication seeking direction to BDO Ramnagar for the registration of Application set Date of Birth of

NOTICE TO PUBLIC IN GENERAL

NOTICE TO PUBLIC IN GENERAL WHEREAS, the applicants namely Koshataya Dio Sh. Mansa Ram Rio Village Romain, Post Office Badhole, Tetail Ramagar District Udhampur J&K UT has fied an application seeking direction to BDO Ramagar to register the Date of Birth of the Petitioner namely Koshalaya Dio Sh. Mansa Ram Rio Romain whose date of birth is 101.07.1868 In the concerned register kept in the said Block Development Office and Issue certificate of Bith under "The Registration of Births and Death Act, 1969 as her birth particular has not been registered anywhere in the Police/BDO/E O records.

tered anywhere in the Police/BDOIE.O records. Therefore, by vitike of this notice, public in general is informed that if any person has any objection in respect of the sfore-mentioned application heichethery may appear in this court ether personally or through a Counsel and file hisheritheir objection within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said application shall be deall, in accordance with law. ued under my hand and seal of this court today 11/03/2025

est department and Divi-sional Forest Officers at-

Director Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla

Dr. Sandeep Sharma; Na-tional Project Coordinator

(NPC) from ICFRE Dr. V.P.

Panwar; Scientist-G and Principal Investigator, Hi-

malayan Forest Research In-

stitute (HFRI), Shimla Dr.

tended the meeting.

Nalb Tehsildar, Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Dalsar.

R.K. Verma, R.K. Verma, along with a team of scientists and officers by Principal Chief Co tor & HoFF Jammu and Kashmir Suresh Kr. Gunta coordinated and participated All the senior officers of for-

in the meeting. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Di-rector HFRI Shimla apprised the participants that his insti-

tute has been given the task of preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) of Jammu & Kashmir UT under one of the All India Coordinated Research Projects. He informed that besides Jammu and Kashmir, the institute has also prepared the Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) for Ladakh UT and Himachal Pradesh under this project. He further informed that these Forest Soil Health Cards (ESHCs) have been prepared after collection of soil samples from different

forest classes including the degraded areas, non-forest areas and scrub forests. Dr. Sandeep Sharma said that the main objective of the

project was preparation of forest soil health cards and find out the status of forest soil in terms of availability of different macro and micro nutrients to the plants; un-derstand the soil related constraints in degraded areas, and address the existing

knowledge gaps in manage-ment of forest soils; suggesting recommendations for improvement in the nutrient deficient soils for success of forestry plantation and productivity enhancement.

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In his inaugural address, PCCF & H0FF, J&K Suresh K. Gupta, highlighted the im-portance of forest soils and talked at length about the range of ecosystem services provided by forest soils.

He expressed his concern over the degradation of soils in general and forest soils in ticular.

In Jammu and Kashmir perspective, he said that though the forest wealth is profuse but issues like degraded areas, shallow soils at places, acidic and alkalinity related problems, poor nutri-ent availability, less success in plantation activities, cannot be overlooked.

Appreciating the efforts of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, he said that the initiative of preparing the FSHCs of Jammu and Kashmir UT is certainly praise-worthy work and knowledge sharing by the institute will be useful for the forest managers and frontline field.

Soil Health Cards for J&K Forests on anvil

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Centre Jammu today. The meeting was chaired by Principal Chief Conservator & HoFF Jammu and Kashmir Suresh Kr. Gupta. All the sen-ior officers of forest department and Di-visional Forest Officers attended the meating.

Director Himalayan Forest Research Director Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimha Dr. Sandeep Shama, Na-tional Project Coordinator (NPC) from ICFRE Dr. VP Panvar, Scientisi-G and Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFR), Shimla Dr. R.K. Verma, along with a team of scien-tats and officer coordinated and partici-pated in the meeting. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director HFRI Shimla apprised the participants that his

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ZON | | KASHMIR HORIZON | UBCRIBE TO KASHMIR HORIZON Soil Health Cards for J&K Forests on anvil

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SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 13.03.2025

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Dr. Vijender Pal Panwar gave a presen-tation elucidating the genesis, concep-tualisation, implementation, and key outcomes of the project.

Later, Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla Dr. R.K Verma, interacted with the participants and gave a detailed pre-sentation about the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) and explained how soil samples have been collected from different locations of Jammu and Kashmir territorial forest divisions and analysed as per the standard protocols. He also ex-plained about the use of GIS and RS tools pranted about use of GIS and R5 tools for deciding the sampling locations and quantum of samples to be collected from each forest division. He also discussed the various organic and inorganic rec-ommendations made in the PSHCs. This was followed by detailed discussion on the contents and FSHCs. The Officers of the forest department provided useful inputs/insights for refinement of these cards. Dushyant Kumar, Senior Techni-cal Officer, HFRI Shimla conducted the proceedings of the meeting and also pro-posed the formal vote of thanks.

