

VISIT OF WORTHY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ICFRE TO HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA AND THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

(19th to 22nd October, 2017)

After taking the reins of *Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)*, Dehra Dun as its **Director General, Dr. S.C. Gairola, IFS**, visited **Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI)**, Shimla from **19th to 22nd October, 2017**.

On the first day of his tour i.e. on **20th October, 2017**, Scientists, Officers and Staff of the institute warmly welcomed the Director General at the main entrance of the institute and thereafter, he was then taken to the Conference Hall. **Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director** at the outset greeted worthy Director General with presentation of a bouquet, Himachali Shawl & Cap and formally welcomed him to the institute. Dr. Tewari also thanked the Director General for sparing his valuable time to visit this Institute and subsequently, introduced him as a very dynamic, professional and dedicated officer/forester, who has a vast experience of working in the field of forestry including his assignments in various capacities in Government of India and his own cadre. Director, HFRI hoped that ICFRE will surely achieve milestones under his able guidance in the times to come. Every member of the staff was also introduced personally.

After this, a detailed presentation on the research and extension activities of the institute, right from its inception to date was made by the Director HFRI. He also apprised the Director General about the various Field Research Stations situated in various agro-climatic zones of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. In his presentation, he urged the DG, ICFRE to take suitable administrative and developmental steps for this budding Institute. His presentation was followed by direct and in-depth interactions of the Director General with all the officials of this institute.

Addressing the scientists, officers and other staff members present in the Hall, Director General, ICFRE appreciated the institute and had detailed discussions with the scientific and technical staff with special reference to the ongoing research projects both under PLAN and funded by the outside funding agencies. He also advised all to put best of the efforts to take the research agenda of the institute to the best possible extent through coordinated efforts for further raising the quality of research agenda.

After meeting with the officials of the institute, the Director General, ICFRE inaugurated the **JRF Hostel** constructed near to the **MD Chaturvedi Memorial Training Complex** in the premises of this Institute.

A meeting of **Dr. S.C. Gairola, IFS, Director General, ICFRE** with **Dr. G.S. Goraya, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, HPSFD** was also organized, where, issues pertaining to the forestry research were discussed across. During the discussions, DG, ICFRE made a special mention of the research support, which this institute can offer to the State Forest Deptt. of Himachal Pradesh. Later, he encouraged the HFRI team to work in close collaboration

with the state forest department and advised them to provide solution to the forestry research problems being faced by the state.

In the evening, Director, HFRI alongwith his team accompanied Director General to the **Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA)** at Potter's Hill, Shimla for inspection of activities being taken up there. DG took keen interest and suggested many measures to further improve the ongoing activities at the Arboretum.

Next day, DG, ICFRE visited **HFRI Museum-cum-Interpretation Centre** and saw the various exhibits and materials displayed there. He gave some valuable input for further improvement of the museum. Thereafter, he visited the **Field Research Station (FRS), Shillaru** to see the nursery and ongoing research activities being implemented in the field. He was also taken to the **Alpine Pastures** of Hatu near Narkanda. On the way DG, ICFRE saw the **Shimla Water Catchment Sanctuary**. He raised and discussed many related and pertinent research issues those were duly answered on the spot by the Director, HFRI and his team of scientists. Study being implemented by the institute in the alpine areas was discussed and elaborated upon. At FRS, Shillaru, the ongoing research activities with special reference to medicinal plants were shown. Late in the evening, Director General, inspected the **Research Laboratories** of the institute in its main campus. He took keen interest in the ongoing scientific activities and also saw the scientific infrastructure available within various laboratories and herbarium. He was also briefed about other research related activities during his visit to the laboratories.

On the third day of his tour, Director General, alongwith the Director and his team, visited Wildlife Sanctuary, Chail. During his visit, he was also shown the various sites of oak forest, which are being handled by the institute under one of the ongoing PLAN project. Director General was also apprised of the problem pertaining to Deodar Root-rot disease- an issue which was posed to HFRI by the Wildlife Wing of the State Forest Department, way back in 1997-1998, for detailed investigations. The institute after studying the area reported ***Phytophthora cinnamomi*** -the most notorious pathogen and having the potential to wipe out the vegetation because of its wide host range as the causal organism – thereby, posing threat to the economy, ecology and the environment of the area, he was informed. **Infection of conifers in the Himalayas by this specie of *Phytophthora* was first ever report on deodar** and keeping the above explanations in view and in the present scenario of Climate change, this outbreak was noticed with great concern. Issues pertaining to overall excellence of the council also cropped up during field discussions.

On his way back to Dehradun from Chail, other areas, where the institute is carrying out field trials were also shown to Worthy Director General. DG, ICFRE was of the view that the institute must try to link the livelihood of the people with research activities, those otherwise interests the farmers in particular and have the marketing potential too.

**Some Glimpses of the Visit of Worthy Director General, ICFRE
to HFRI, Shimla
(19th to 22nd October, 2017)**





