

XVIIIth Research Advisory Group Meeting (RAG)

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

(13th October, 2017)

The Annual Research Advisory Group Meeting of HFRI, Shimla was held on **13th October, 2017** in the Conference Hall of the institute. The meeting provided an opportunity not only to review the progress of ongoing projects, examination and prioritization of new research proposals but also to take maximum benefits of the expertise of Hon'ble RAG Members on various research issues.

Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla felicitated **Dr. G.S. Goraya, IFS, PCCF & HoFF**, the Chief Guest of the inaugural session, and welcomed all the Hon'ble RAG members. **Dr. Tewari** also welcomed **Dr. Shamila Kalia**, ADG (RP) In-charge, **Dr. V.R.S. Rawat**, ADG (BCC), ICFRE, who were nominated by the Director General, ICFRE for attending the meeting through Video Conferencing from ICFRE headquarters. He said that he is indebted to the Chief Guest Dr. Goraya and the other hon'ble members of RAG for accepting our request for attending this important meeting. He added that Dr. G.S. Goraya had worked as Coordinator/ Director of this Institute during late nineties and also served the *Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education*, Dehra Dun as Deputy Director General (Research). He was associated with this Institute and also with the *ICFRE* right from the reorganization of *ICFRE* research policy and preparation of National Forestry Research Plan. He informed that the ongoing research projects will be presented before the RAG and the relevant suggestions will be considered by the respective Principal Investigator in their research project. Dr. Tewari informed that from this year onward ICFRE has encouraged the concept of All India Coordinated multidisciplinary Projects. On the basis of this concept, the Scientists of HFRI has prepared two multidisciplinary research projects, which will be presented before this RAG for their suggestions and approval.



Dr. G.S. Goraya, in his inaugural address, said that he is feeling quite pleased to be a part of this RAG meeting. He said that he is remembering the old days when the process of reorganization of forestry research and preparation of National Forest Research Plan (NFRP) to prioritize the research programmes for ICFRE was started in the year 1997-98. At that point of point of time, he was heading the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla and a stakeholders' workshop was organized at Himachal Institute of Public Administration (HIPA). Lot of exercise was done to formulate the

Plan for HFRI, which were included in the NFRP later on. In the year 2000 various programme were finalized for ICFRE and its Institutes. These programmes had been



changed from time-to-time keeping in view the present day requirement and a new vision document was prepared by ICFRE in the year 2013. Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India also suggested some themes and the ICFRE has done well to match these themes as per the suggestions of the Ministry and after that ICFRE has started working on these themes after developing the research projects on the suggestions and demand of the stakeholders/

society. He also talked on the All India Coordinated Project during the meeting.

Following this, the technical session started wherein **Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research (GCR)** told about the importance of RAG in ICFRE Institutes through a power point presentation. He also made a presentation on the recent research achievements and other ongoing research and extension activities as per the schedule. From the upcoming of ICFRE, the structure of RAG has been changed from time to time, he added. He further informed that RAG is apex body for approval of the new research projects and monitoring the progress of ongoing research activities. After this, **02 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.

Dr. Susheel Kapta, Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. L. C. Bandana, DFO (Research), Dr. Sunil Agarwal, Officer in Charge TIME and TARA, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, Dr. Mohar Singh Thakur, Principal Scientist & Scientist-in-Charge, NBPGR, Shimla, Prof. K.S. Verma, Ex-Director (Research), UHF, Nauni, Solan, Dr. Maninderjeet Kaur, Joint Director, Himalayan Research Group, Dr. Sanjeev Thakur, Nominee of Dean Forestry UHF, Nauni, Solan, ; Dr. S.S. Minhas, Chairman, HIMOARD, Khanieri, Rampur, Shri Nand Lal Sharma, Proprietor, Nanda Herbal, Kullu, Shri Mela Ram Sharma, Progressive Farmer, Khatnol, Shimla and Shri Om Prakash Verma, Vice-President, Gram-Panchayat, Beolia participated in the deliberations.

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 GLIMPSES OF THE MEETING



