

# Stakeholders' Workshop on "Identification of Drivers of Deforestation in Meghalaya"

A one day Stakeholders' workshop under the aegis of Meghalaya – Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP) was organized by Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam at Conference Hall of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North Eastern Regional Centre, NEHU Campus, Umshing, Shillong under the Chairmanship of Shri Budstar Kharmawphlang, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Climate Change, Research & Training), Department of Forest & Environment, Govt. of Meghalaya on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The main focus was to have a discussion on the Stakeholder's perception on various drivers of deforestation in their respective zones of the State, in the light of facts & figures generated by the concerned Departments and their consequent ranking. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from Department of Forest & Environment, North-Eastern Hill University, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Botanical Survey of India (Eastern Regional Centre), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Commerce & Industries, Department of Economics & Statistics, Office of the District Agriculture Officer and Directorate of Border Area Development, Non Governmental Organizations, Researchers from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), etc.

In the **Inaugural Session** a presentation was made by **Dr. Dhruba J. Das**, Head, Forest Ecology & Climate Change (FE&CC) Division, RFRI on the project activities; while **Shri Ajay Kumar**, Scientist presented some outcomes of the project based on the Direct & Indirect Drivers ranking data collected from the villages distributed within the 3 Hill Zones, viz. – Khasi, Garo and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.

The **Technical Session** began with discussion and brainstorming amongst the participants. The stakeholders' comprising of Academia, representatives of concerned Departments (Govt. of Meghalaya) and Non-Governmental Organizations expressed their views and assigned ranks to direct and indirect Drivers of Deforestation.

The meeting ended with Concluding Remarks and Vote of thanks by Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Head, FE&CC Division.

## Glimpses of the Stakeholders' Workshop



Felicitation of Shri Budstar Kharmawphlang, IFS, PCCF (CC, R & T) as Chairman of the Workshop



Shri Budstar Kharmawphlang, IFS, PCCF (CC, R & T) gives his Chairman's Address



Dr. Dhruva J. Das, Scientist briefs about the Workshop's focus and presented the project activities



Shri Ajay Kumar, Scientist presented outcomes of the project



Dr. K.K. Sarmah, Scientist, NESAC made a presentation on degraded Forest area in Meghalaya



Sharing of views by participants





Sharing of views by participants



Ranking of various drivers of deforestation by participants



Group Photograph of Members and Participants of the Stakeholders' Workshop