

## **RFRI, JORHAT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS**

Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Around 1.6 billion people - including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures - depend on forests for their livelihoods, medicines, fuel, food and shelter. Forests are the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, home to more than 80% of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects.

Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, global deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually. Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

The International Day of Forests is held annually on 21 March to raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security. Sustainable management of all types of forests are at the heart of unlocking challenges of conflict-affected, developing and developed countries, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat also celebrated International Day of Forests on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 (21<sup>st</sup> March being holiday) at its Campus. The Celebration was inaugurated by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director of the Institute. In his speech, Dr. Jayaraj spoke about the significance of Forest Day. He informed that the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 21 December 2012, which declared that 21 March of each year is to be observed as the International Day of Forests. The resolution encouraged all Member States to organize activities relating to all types of forests. Activities expected to take place on the International Day include tree-planting and other community-level events, and national celebrations including art, photo and film as well as social media outreach. He put emphasis on creating awareness on conservation, restoration and utilization of forest

resources for human wellbeing. He also emphasized on documentation forest hydrology, helping children on forest and environment, increasing investment on education etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Davinder Suman, Divisional Forest Officer, Jorhat emphasized on conservation of nature and natural resources. She told that scope of improvement always existed. Ancient societies were mostly dependent on forests, but now forests have been shrinking due to manifold reasons. This have created lots of problem now including global warming, loss of biodiversity, prevalence of diseases and pests, frequent floods etc. She told that forests must be cared for sustenance of human civilization.

Dr. R. K. Borah and Dr. D. Dutta also spoke on the occasion.

On this auspicious occasion, Dr. Kuntala N. Baruah, ACTO, RFRI was awarded with 'Outstanding Employee Award' for her outstanding contribution. One Under Graduate student from Dr. K. N. Modi University, Rajasthan, Shri Hemonto Timung was also awarded certificate as he had completed short term training at the Institute. Two RFRI Reports, namely *Forest Soils of Nagaland* and *Agarwood Induction Technology* were also released on the occasion.

As a part of the programme, a mass plantation programme was organized at the Campus. Around 350 seedlings of *Aquilaria malaccensis* were planted.

The entire programme was planned and conducted by Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division.

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## GLIMPSES THE PROGRAMME



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