

Report on
Visit of the Hon'ble Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
to
Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat

Hon'ble Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Shri Arun Singh Rawat, IFS visited Rain Forest Research Institute, during 25th to 31st December 2022. On the first day of his tour programme i.e., 25th December 2022, the Director General visited Agroforestry demonstration plots of Namsai District of Arunachal Pradesh, which were developed under the project, "Improving the traditional homestead to a viable agro-forestry system for biodiversity conservation and inclusive growth of Khampti tribe of Namsai District, Arunachal Pradesh" funded by NMHS. At the time of his visit, the beneficiaries of the Agroforestry Demonstration plots of Mankao village, Oldmohong village, Piyong village, Lathao village, and Pathar Gaon along with few local entrepreneurs greeted Hon'ble DG, ICFRE. During the meet the DG, ICFRE had an interaction with the Khampti beneficiaries of the district and urged them to take the benefits of agroforestry, capacity building, training and workshops conducted from time to time by the project investigator. He articulated satisfaction on the progress and acceptability of the skills and technologies adopted under the project.

On the second day, the Director General visited Chroma Biotech LLP and Chroma Hydroponic Nursery, South Amolapatty, Dibrugarh, along with Dr. R. K. Borah, Director, RFRI, Shri Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist E, Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, ACTO and Rajdeep Phukan, JPF. Chroma Biotech LLP is basically a private commercial tissue culture laboratory focused on mass production of high yielding genotypes of bamboo. The laboratory had signed an agreement with RFRI and taken license for mass production of high yielding genotypes of bamboo selected by RFRI. RFRI also provided technical support in this venture and trained the laboratory staff extensively in all the aspects of bamboo tissue culture. During the visit Mr Chiranjeet Baruah, Designated partner, Chroma Biotech LLP, Dr. Amrita Kashyap Chaliha, Managing partner, Chroma Biotech LLP and Mr Rudhir Chahaha, Designated Partner, Chroma Biotech LLP and Partner, Chroma Hydroponic Nursery welcomed the Director General and other members of the team. Dr. Amrita Kashyap Chaliha delivered a presentation on the status and future plan of the work. During the discussion, Shri Rawat suggested to take initiative to adopt technology for tissue culture of commercially important forestry species of the region, such as *Aquilaria malaccensis* in

addition to bamboos. He also urged to continue collaboration with RFRI for needful information and progressive technologies evolved time to time for tissue culture of forestry species.

On 27th December 2022, he has visited laboratories, nurseries, Bamboseatum, Vacuum Pressure Impregnated Unit, Bamboo Composite center, orchidarium, Botanical Garden of RFRI. He also addressed the officials of RFRI in a felicitation programme organized at RFRI, Jorhat. In his address, Shri Rawat expressed his commitment for betterment of working environment, infrastructure and financial position. He also urged all the officials to work with a strong commitment to boost up the productivity of the forestry and livelihood of the region by transferring technologies developed by RFRI and ICFRE Institutions.

On 28th December, he visited the biggest river island Majuli along with a team of scientists to justify the potentiality of Brahmaputra river rejuvenation programme for control of soil erosion and recurrent flood situation which are the basic threats of Majuli Island. During his visit he had interacted with Satradhikars of Auniati and Samoguri Satra in this regard.

On 29th December, he visited DM Agarwood Industries, Naharani, Golaghat and discussed about the status of Agarwood industry and hydro distillation. He interacted on potentiality of artificial inoculation process developed by RFRI and also scope of scientific improvement of conventional methods, promotion of skill and livelihood. On the way to Shillong Hon'ble DG ICFRE also visited ESES Bio Wealth PVT Ltd., Jagiroad, Assam and discuss about the prospect of bamboo species specially *Bambusa tulda* for commercial application in preparation of value added products such as household furnishings. On 30th December, the DG, ICFRE along with Director RFRI, Jorhat visited 'Living Root Bridge' in Nohwet Village, East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya to explore the possibilities to incorporate Root Bridges of Meghalaya as place of UNESCO heritage site.



Visit to Agroforestry Demo Plots at Mankao village, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh



Visit to Chroma Biotech LLP



Plantation at RFRI, Jorhat



Falicitation programme



Visit to different laboratories



Release of Books published by RFRI



Adress by DG to RFRI officials