

## TWO DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP OF IFS OFFICERS AT RFRI, JORHAT

**Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat** conducted a two-day training workshop on *Role of Forestry in Sustainable Development of People*, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for the officers of the Indian Forest Service during 24-25 January, 2019. Twenty officers from thirteen states participated in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Anurag Chaudhary, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra. The workshop consisted of theoretical sessions mainly focusing on the natural resources such as Bamboo, Agarwood, Medicinal and Aromatic plants, Orchids, Lac, Broom Grass etc of North Eastern Region and its utilization for common benefit of the people. The workshop also included field visit sessions to Kaziranga Biodiversity and Orchid Park, Kohora, Golaghat to acquaint with ecotourism activities of Kaziranga.

**Inaugural session:** At the outset, Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, IFS, Director of Rain Forest Research Institute welcomed the participants, the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and all the guests who graced the inaugural function. Shri Anurag Chaudhary, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of various natural resources of North-Eastern India. Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist-E & Course Director, conducted the session and offered vote of thanks.

### **Technical sessions:**

**Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj**, Director, RFRI, Jorhat delivered an exhaustive presentation on Natural Resource Management with special reference to NER. In his presentation, he elaborated on various natural resources of North Eastern Region such as bamboo, agarwood, lac, broom grass, etc., and their utilization. He gave an updated account on these resources.

**Dr. S. C. Nath**, Chief Scientist (Rtd), CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat delivered an illustrative presentation on Harnessing Medicinal and Aromatic Plants through folklore wisdom in North East India. He highlighted the detailed account of research and development work conducted by him at CSIR-NIEST, Jorhat on medicinal and aromatic plants of NER for the benefit of the people. He correlated the work more particularly in the context of traditional wisdom. He provided information of 500 plant species used in the form of 970 recipes for the treatments

of a large number of diseases by the people of the region. His presentation was highly appreciated by the participants.

**Dr. T. C. Bhuyan**, Scientist (Rtd.), RFRI gave a presentation on Bamboo: An Opportunity for Livelihood Generation. He spoke about the techniques of bamboo planting stock production, cultivation and management, as practiced today in the North-Eastern region and the advancements that are required for quality planting stock production and improvement in yield. Management of bamboo nurseries and plantations has potential to serve as a means of livelihood, and already there are community bamboo nurseries that are popular in Tripura. The people cultivate bamboo only in their homestead gardens, for which elaborate nursery is not required. However, establishment of nurseries can become a means of livelihood. Quality planting stock production using plus clumps identified by selection in the region, can boost the productivity of the bamboo crop and can sustain the increase in demand in future.

Dr. T. C. Bhuyan elaborated the nursery techniques of bamboos, methods of selection of superior clumps for propagation, plantation techniques, silviculture including clump management, fertilization, working of flowered clumps, harvesting methods, agroforestry with bamboo, etc. The two objectives of bamboo sector should be bamboo resources development and bamboo product development. He outlined the various actions required for promotion of bamboo sector, viz., selection of superior planting materials, establishment of large scale, high-yielding plantations, development of cottage and small-scale industries, promotion of medium and large scale industries, creation of infrastructure for Research and Development, Market information support, export promotion, institutional framework for flow of investment, training in processing of bamboos and setting up of demonstration centres.

**Dr. R. K. Borah**, Scientist F, RFRI, Jorhat delivered a comprehensive presentation on “*Aquilaria malaccensis*, the potential aromatic and medicinal plant for livelihood generation in N E India” where he emphasized on nursery techniques, cultivation of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, insect pest diseases of agar trees and their control measure through scientific methods. The presentation covered various aspects such as natural agarwood formation, artificial agarwood induction using physical, chemical and biological methods. He also emphasised on agarwood research in India and other countries, agar based high-value agro forestry practices, market potential, harvesting methods, cost-benefit ratio and employment opportunities.

**Shri R. K. Kalita**, Scientist E, RFRI led the trainees to the Bambusetum, Bamboo Nursery and Bamboo Composite Centre. He showed various bamboo species present in the Bambusetum. At present there are 63 species of bamboo at RFRI. He also apprised about the germplasm collection of six bamboo species. He explained about the various propagation methods of bamboo and demonstrated. The trainees also visited the Bamboo Composite Centre where they were apprised about the utility of bamboo and also efforts of RFRI in the areas of livelihood generation through training of artisans, farmers, students etc.

Field Trip was organized on the second day to Kaziranga. The main purpose of the field visit was to visit Biodiversity and Orchid Park, Kohora, Golaghat and to study the potential of orchid cultivation and also to witness the ecotourism activities of Kaziranga National Park.

The field trip was led by Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director. Shri Rohini B. Saikia, IFS, DFO, KNP delivered a presentation on different conservation activities of KNP and its challenges. In his presentation, Shri Saikia shared the challenges like poaching of the famous one horned Rhino, Tiger & other wild animals. He told the Officers that despite long lasting monsoon and flood situation the frontline staff of KNP remain vigil all the time to save the valuable wild animals. He told the Officers that due to constant efforts of KNP, the population of Rhino is increasing. The officers had a brief visit to the Park.

### **Valedictory Session:**

Valedictory Session was organized at Tesco Resort, Bokakhat, Golaghat. Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat chaired the session and Shri Rohini B. Saikia, IFS, DFO, KNP was also present. The Officers shared their experience during the two day training workshop. The participants appreciated the overall arrangements of the training programme and thanked the Director, RFRI and his team. The participants were presented with the Certificate of Participation and memento.

GLIMPSES OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP



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