On his three days' (24-26 March,2019) tour to Mizoram, the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF & SS) to Government of India, Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS paid a visit to FRCBR on 26/03/2019 and took stock of its activities. He was accompanied by the Principal Secretary to Government of Mizoram, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, PCCFs and other senior forest officials.

He was received by the Head and Scientists of FRCBR and taken around the FRCBR campus, laboratories, bamboo museum, bamboo trail, etc. He was pleased to see the bamboo handicraft and value added products made by the trainees of a training course on bamboo value addition organized by the FRCBR earlier. The DGF & SS was requested for selection of three best artisans on the basis of bamboo products made by them for award of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to promote bamboo value added products.

Shri M.Z. Singson, Head FRCBR gave a power point presentation on the past, present and proposed future activities of the Centre. The DGF & SS mentioned about India's richness in bamboo especially in the North-Eastern States, however the contribution in the global bamboo trade is as low as 7% while China who has a comparable bamboo cover has almost 80% share in the global bamboo trade. During discussion, it was unanimously acknowledged that the China is able to dominate global bamboo trade because of the suitable monopodial bamboo species. Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS emphasized that there is an urgent need to find and promote suitable bamboo species for commercialization. He further stated that bamboo products of high quality are required to be produced for competition in the global market.

On previous day i.e. 25 March,2019 he visited REDD+ project sites at Ailawng and Reiek Villages and inspected the project activities.



Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS visited FRCBR and inspected the Centre on 26/03/2019.



Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS inquired about lichen diversity and value added bamboo products



Power Point Presentation by Sh. M.Z. Singson, Head



Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS visited tissue culture lab, green house, bamboo museum and bamboo trail



Group photo at FRCBR