

## "TRAINING PROGRAMME ON FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION"

ORGANISED BY FRI, DEHRADUN AND NIDM, NEW DELHI

(16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019)

National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun are organizing training for the officers of forest department and officers of Eco-Task Force, ITBP, CSIF, Wildlife Experts and BSF in FRI from 16-20 Sept 2019. The topic of training is "**Forestry, Wildlife and Disaster Risk Reduction**". The expansion of population near forest areas can cause forest disasters like forest fire, landslides, man-animal conflicts which can damage lives and properties of the people especially in the Himalayan regions. The normal fire season in India is from the month of mid March to mid June. Uttarakhand witnessed the most severe forest fires in the recent time during April, May and June of 2019 year. According to the report of Uttarakhand forest department, total number of fire events are 2100 recorded up to June 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 which quoted 2412.45 ha of forest area wherein 70% of the chir forest is affected by forest fires. Every year, many people reside near forests are killed by leopards, elephants and tigers in the country.



The frequency of cloud bursts, landslides and flash floods in the hilly terrains are now increasing in the rainy seasons. This year, cloud bursts and flash flood have damaged the properties of the local people in Uttarkashi and Chamoli Districts of Uttarakhand. People have migrated from their native villages due to disasters. The basic purpose of the training is to sensitize the officers of forest departments, wildlife experts and paramilitary forces aware of the extent damage caused by the disasters due to natural calamities and wildlife in the forest areas. The reasons for occurrence of forest fire and landslides, the steps that can be taken to prevent or minimize the losses due to fire and landslides by use of various Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System tools and by developing a strong network between other departments of the government and Joint Forest Management Communities (JFMCs) so that massive forest disasters and wildlife conflicts can be controlled. To enlighten the participants on the issue lectures of faculties from institutes like Uttarakhand forest department, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Forest Survey of India, National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, ICFRE and FRI are arranged. The training was inaugurated by Sh. A.S Rawat, Director, FRI. He advised participants to learn new methods and technologies developed by various institutions like GIS and Remote Sensing for prevention and control of forest disasters from this training program. He told that Forest fire is continued degrading forests as frequency of forest fires are increasing in the country. Forest departments should be well prepared before fire season for controlling forest fires. He emphasized that fire lines and any fuel materials lying on the forest floor should be cleared before fire season so that fire may not be extended in larger areas. For that, sufficient funds should be provided by the state governments. The crew members and local community should participate actively for combating forest fire to safe gourd forest for generations. The departments should use remote sensing and GIS technologies during fire season. The Course Director of the training Mrs. Arti Chaudhary Head, Silviculture Division welcomed participants and emphasized on advance preparation for mitigation of disasters especially in the Himalayan regions. Dr. A.K. Gupta, Professor from NIDM said that the mix group of forest officers and officers of the paramilitary forces would be best preference in managing disasters especially in difficult areas. He also told that FRI is playing very good role in organizing such capacity building programmes. He told that NIDM has partnership with UNEP with respect to Climate change and resilience programmes. He also requested to participants and officers for participation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) symposium on **“Disaster Resilient and Green Development for Sustainability”** being organized by NIDM, New Delhi on 26-17 Sept 2019. Dr. A.D. Kaushik, Senior Faculty from National

Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi highlighted to the participants on various training programmes being organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi in collaboration with various Research Institutions of the country. Sh. S.K. Thomas, Assistant Silviculturist FRI organized the training program.

