

Training Programme on ‘Causes and Management of Kharsu Oak Mortality in Nohra Range of Shimla WL Division’ at HFRI on 12.12.2017

A training on “Causes and Management of Kharsu Oak Mortality in Nohra Range of Shimla WL Division” was conducted for the officials of Shimla Wildlife Division and fringe farmers of the Nohra Wildlife Range on 12.12.2017 at HFRI, Shimla.

The rationale behind this training programme was that severe mortality of Kharsu Oak was observed in Nohra Wildlife Forest Range of Shimla Wildlife Division, Himachal Pradesh. As per the request received from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife (CCF WL) Shimla for carrying out complete field investigations behind this drying in Nohra wildlife forest range, a multi-disciplinary team of HFRI visited the affected forest in the month of August 2017. Field investigations exhibited a range of drying symptoms, coupled with the presence of fungal conks on drying/ dead trees. Variable intensity of secondary insect borer attack was also observed. It had been observed and also informed by staff that study area in past had been subjected to high biotic pressure, which may be one of cause for further spread of fungus and subsequent mortality.

Sh. Rajesh Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer (WL), Shimla, along with Forest Block Officer, Forest Guards and four farmers of the Nohra beat, attended the training. Dr. Ashwani Tapwal, Head Forest Division formally welcomed the participants and gave a presentation on causes and management of diseases in forest ecosystem. He elaborated the various biotic and abiotic factors responsible for incidence and spread of insect-pest and diseases and advised to follow site specific cultural and silvicultural practices to keep the forest healthy. Thereafter, other subject experts of the institute viz., Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Sci-F, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, Sci-E and Dr. Pawan Kumar, Sci-D discussed about factors responsible for the drying of Kharsu oak trees in Nohra forest range and the methods and techniques for its management. Sh. Rajesh Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer (WL), Shimla thanked HFRI for conducting this training.

Glimpses of training

