

**Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE chairs the session at COFO 2012 Meet, Rome on
25-09-12 on “Strengthening forestry in land use decisions”**

During the World Forest Week Event on Strengthening forestry in land use decisions, Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun INDIA, chaired a session on “Strengthening forestry in land use decisions” at the COFO 2012 Meet at Rome on 25-09-12.

The list of panellists included the following members:

- From The Philippines: Mr. Ricardo Calderon, Head of the Forest Management Bureau in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- From Peru: Ms. Rosario Arces, General Director of the Directorate of Forests and Forest Wildlife (Dirección Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre);
- From Tunisia: Mr. Youssef Saadani, Director of socio-economic development, General Directorate of Forests;
- From Nigeria: Mr. Thomas Fameso, Deputy Director of Forestry, Forestry Department, Federal Ministry of Environment.

Mr. August Temu, the Deputy Director General, Partnerships and Impact of the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya made an introductory presentation and the panellists were asked to respond to two questions, one by one, based on the efforts in this field by their respective countries.

The questions framed by DG ICFRE, for discussion by the panellists, were as follows:

1. “Forests play a very important role in ensuring food and water security, providing fuel, fodder and fibre and Non-timber Forest Products, and in mitigating climatic change in large parts of the world. What has been the experience of your country in influencing land use decisions to meet these objectives?”
2. “Given your experiences so far, and given the increasing pressure on land, what would you consider as key strategy for strengthening forestry in overall land use decisions in your country, and what would be the most important one or two concrete key next steps to take?”

These were followed by the audience comments to panellists and key-note speakers. The session was concluded by DG ICFRE emphasising the importance of forestry in overall land-use decisions throughout the world.

The ICFRE is represented by the following members at COFO 2012:

- Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE,
- Mr. Saibal Dasgupta, DDG (Ext.) ICFRE,
- Mr. Pankaj Agrawal, ADG (EM) ICFRE.