

**Release of books on “Forest Biodiversity in India” and “Forest Sector Report India 2010” by Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon’ble Minister of State, Environment and Forests, Government of India in presence of DG, ICFRE during COP-11, Hyderabad on 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has been undertaking the holistic development of forestry research through need based planning, promoting, conducting and coordinating research, education and extension covering all aspects of forestry. The Council deals with the solution based forestry research in tune with the emerging issues in the sector, including global concerns such as climate change, conservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and sustainable management and development of resources.

To provide insight into the unique treasure of India’s forest biodiversity, a coffee table book on **“Forest Biodiversity in India”** has been prepared by ICFRE. The book presents spectacular visual work and successfully highlights the message of biodiversity conservation for the human well being. It also looks beyond the data to understand the human expectations, demands and contributions to conserve, protect and nurture our treasure of biodiversity. This coffee table book comprising twelve chapters is a humble effort to bring out the different facets of Indian Forest Biodiversity. This coffee table book is first of its kind in India in the field of Forest Biodiversity depicting various dimensions through photographs and will be of tremendous value to the readers in understanding the unique heritage of our country. The book has been developed in easy to understand language on the complex biological features of the country and was published with the financial support from National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

In addition to the above book, **“Forest Sector Report India 2010”** has been prepared by ICFRE on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The report gives details of the forestry sector activities like investment in the forestry sector, international conventions related to the sector, National Afforestation Programme, use of modern technology like GIS in forest management, contribution of the forests to the Indian economy, development of Non- Timber Forest resources, management of human resources, etc.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon’ble Minister of State, Environment and Forests, Government of India released the two books on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 during the Eleventh Conference of Parties (COP-11) meeting in Hyderabad on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012. On this occasion Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE, Shri Saibal Dasgupta, Deputy Director General (Extension) and other dignitaries/officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and ICFRE were present.