

Visit of Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, DG, ICFRE at ERS (Environmental Research Station), Sukna, Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi

Respected Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, Director General, Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun rewarded an unscheduled short visit to Environmental Research Station (ERS), Sukna a constituent centre of Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP), Ranchi on 13th March, 2018. Dr. Gairola was on his way to Central Academy of Forest Education (CAFÉ), Kurseong the erstwhile Eastern Forest Rangers College, Kurseong for its passing out parade of newly recruited and trained Forest Rangers. On his arrival at Bagdogra, he was received and welcomed by the officers of IFP, Ranchi and CAFÉ, Kurseong. At Forest Rest House, Sukna he had an interaction session with the senior officers who had been invited on the behest of Shri Mana Ram Baloch, *IFS* APCCF North Bengal and CCF, Hill Circle. This interaction session with the DG was participated by the following Forest Officers:

1. Shri MR Baloch, *IFS*, APCCF, North Bengal and CCF, Hill Circle,
2. Shri Rajpal Singh, *IFS*, Director of Forest Education, Dehradun,
3. Shri Ujjal Ghosh, *IFS*, CCF, Wildlife (North),
4. Shri AK Dubey, *IFS*, Silviculture (North),
5. Shri CA Rahaman, *IFS*, CASFOS, Burnihat, Assam
6. Shri SSSS Sherpa, *IFS*, DFO Working Plan (North)
7. Shri Pramod Chand Lakra, *IFS*, DCF/OIC, ERS, Sukna.
8. Smt. Uma Rani N, *IFS*, DFO (Baikunthapur)
9. Shri Kaushik Bannerjee, WBFS, DFO, NTPF
10. Smt. Dawa S. Sherpa, WBFS, DFO, Siliguri - Social Forestry and
11. Shri Jayanta Mandal, WBFS, AWW, Darjeeling WL, Division, Sukna

The DG, ICFRE discussed about how ICFRE and its institute can contribute through its technology and research for improving the forest quality and cover in the state of West Bengal. He has also discussed on different issues and the identified problems faced by the Directorate of Forest, Government of West Bengal in terms of Research and Development.

The APCCF, North Bengal briefed about the different Bio-geographical areas, bio-diversity and structure of Forest Directorate existing at North Bengal. He accentuated need of frequent interaction between the stakeholders *i.e.* the Directorate of Forest and the ICFRE institutes. He also emphasized need of Research Advisory mechanism existing within the ICFRE should be evolved in the state of West Bengal in addition to cater the forester need on Seed Protection Area (CPA), Candidate Plus Trees (CPT) and to deliver the technologies available with the ICFRE.

The DG, ICFRE responded to the issues put forth by the Officers. He ensured timely and regular interaction in future. He assured that Dr. Nitin Kukrani, Director, IFP, Ranchi will

take care of the issues of stakeholders who has joined recently to the institute is known for his sincerity, hard-work and dedication. A Regional Conference has been scheduled on 15th of May 2018 which will be conducted at IFP, Ranchi and all the stakeholders including North Bengal would be invited to raise issues pertaining to their area of interest. The various issues raised during this meeting has been dealt systematically and in stepwise manner and the Director of the Institutes and Scientist and Official would be briefed latter on. He was also of the opinion that the study of preservation plot and seed plot area is of immense importance. The data collected from the preservation plot ensures that the seed collected from these areas are of good quality and source of seed should be known. He was agreed with Shri Ujjal Ghosh, *IFS*, and Shri A K Dubey, *IFS*, Silviculture (North) as regards need of Bio-Diversity study and proper documentation of the Sanctuaries and National Park of North Bengal. The assessment of the flora and fauna requires a experienced Taxonomist and service are needed for documenting it. He also informed the August gathering that Taxonomist are few on the rolls of ICFRE and if need arises they will be outsourced to get the study and assessment of Bio-Diversity is done. In reply of question asked by Smt. Uma Rani N, *IFS*, DFO (Baikunthapur) who is facing plantation failure mainly due to problematic soil type consist of "bhabhar" soil in Kurseong and Baikanthapur Division, he secured a joint visit of Director IFP, Ranchi and DCF, ERS, Sukna and proper study would be conducted to come up solutions of problematic soil. He assured Shri S.S.S.S. Sherpa, *IFS*, DFO Working Plan (North) that the application of the mass multiplication through tissue culture should be followed and improvement can be brought about by following the standard protocol developed by the ICFRE over a period of years. Regarding the issue of Tall Seedling raised by Smt. Dawa S. Sherpa, WBFS he informed that everything depends on the tools and techniques used and to ensure that root coiling should be avoided for the plantation which has been carried out and to ensure success of the plantation.

The meeting ended on a positive note ensuing better co-operation in the future between the Directorate of Forest, Government of West Bengal and ICFRE, Dehradun through its constituent Institute mainly IFP, Ranchi.

Shortly after the meeting Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, Director General, ICFRE visited ERS, Sukna along with the officers. During the visit a small plantation in the campus was carried out. The DG also reviewed the works carried out at ERS, Sukna which was briefed by DCF, ERS, Sukna. The DG, ICFRE suggested the following measures and the steps to be taken for the improvement of the centre.

- a) The buildings are in need of immediate repairs and needful should be done,
- b) The centre should work as the extension wing of IFP, Ranchi as well as the ICFRE and all the technologies developed needs to be demonstrated.
- c) There is a need to review the work and the number of staff posted at ERS, Sukna. Few junior scientists may be posted for carrying out research work at the Station.
- d) DCF Sukna has been nominated to provide services of ICFRE forestry education to Central Academy of Forest Education, Kurseong.



Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, DG, ICFRE, Dehradun interacting with forest officers of West Bengal Forest Department



Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, DG, ICFRE, Dehradun with Shri MR Baloch, *IFS*, APCCF, North Bengal and CCF, Hill Circle



Dr. Suresh Gairola, *IFS*, DG, ICFRE, Dehradun planting a tree in the campus of ERS, Sukna



Shri MR Baloch, *IFS*, APCCF, North Bengal planting a tree in the campus of ERS, Sukna



Shri Rajpal Singh, *IFS*, Director of Forest Education, Dehradun planting a tree in the campus of ERS, Sukna



Shri MR Baloch, *IFS*, APCCF, North Bengal, Shri Rajpal Singh, *IFS*, Director of Forest Education, Dehradun, Shri Pramod Chand Lakra, *IFS*, DCF/OIC, ERS, Sukna and officers bidding the farewell