

Interactive Meet
On
Agroforestry and Livelihood
[26th December, 2016]

It is well known fact that Agroforestry is a dire need of today to increase the tree cover through the concept of Tree Outside Forest (TOF). It is also a requirement for a consolidated enhancement in productivity through synergy of agricultural crops and tree species. It is true that agroforestry is helpful to increase tree cover but there are still some issues which are needed to be discussed with tree growers on a common platform.

In the backdrop of above, Forest Research Institute (FRI) organized an interactive meet on “Agroforestry and Livelihood” on 26th December, 2016 at Shatabdi van Vigyan Kendra, Old Rangers College, Dehradun. In this meet, 22 participants including farmers from Haryana and Uttarakhand, representatives of Uttarakhand Forest Department, Wood Technologist Association, Haryana, SHGs and NGOs participated in the meet.

Dr. Savita, Director, FRI inaugurated the meet and during her inaugural address she said that the meet will certainly bring farmers, scientists and technologists together to discuss different issues related with agroforestry specially introduction of new and improved species for productivity enhancement on farmer’s land. She assured participants that the experts of the institute are always ready to take the queries if any are made by them in this meet and afterwards also. Dr. A. K. Pandey, Head Extension Division in his welcome address mentioned that the meet is organized to share the views and ideas of both farmers and scientists of the institute. He said that every participant is free to raise any query and share the problem with experts. He also mentioned that crop rotation under agroforestry system is necessary to maintain the fertility of soil and production level high.

Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist-D, gave vote of thanks to participants and all associated persons for conducting the inaugural session the meet.

During technical sessions discussion was focused on quality seedlings and improved variety of agroforestry species (Poplar, Eucalyptus and Melia sp.). It was felt by the farmers that better quality clones specially *Populus deltoides* and Eucalyptus species should be made available so that quality production may be assured and it may be economical for farmers. The issue of marketing was also discussed and it was found that there are many problems in marketing of agroforestry produces, farmers were eager to know about policy issues related to growing and marketing of agroforestry species.

Mr. D. C. Uniyal, Divisional Marketing Manager, Uttarakhand Forest Corporation, Dehradun interacted with participants and answered queries raised by the participants. Replying a query made on marketing issue of products made from *Lantana camara* and bamboo Mr. Uniyal informed that the Uttarakhand Forest Corporation, Dehradun arranges the marketing of such type of products made by SHGs and anybody can contact him for this purpose.

Scientists of FRI Dr. Mohammad Yusuf, Dr. A. K. Pandey, Dr. Ajay Thakur, Shri D. P. Khali, Dr. B. P. Tamta, Dr. Charan Singh, Dr. Devendra Kumar, Dr. B. M. Dimri and Shri Rambir Singh interacted with the participants and replied queries raised by them.

The following views and suggestions came out during discussion between participants and subject experts:

- Availability of superior seedlings and clones should be assured to farmers so that quality production may be taken on farmland.
- Site specificity with soil and climatic suitability should be taken into consideration before growing tree species under agroforestry system.
- Tree – Crop interaction plays a major role in productivity. Keeping in view, crops and tree species showing synergistic behavior should be grown together to minimize the competition

- Monoculture for a long time should be avoided as it decreases fertility of the soil; hence crop rotation is necessary.
- Soil of a farmland should be got tested from a certified agency and treatment accordingly should be done.
- Trees and crops should be protected from pests and pathogens for productivity enhancement. Findings of our studies should be applied in field. Study on resistance and tolerance of plants against pest and pathogens is needed. Bio-control may be an effective tool to manage pest and pathogens.
- There should be clear cut policy to manage monkey, wild boar, Neelgay and other wild animals responsible for destroying agriculture crops and plantations on farmland.
- Farmers should make Farmers Cooperatives and operate marketing of agroforestry produce through these cooperatives. This practice will minimize the mediator role.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agroforestry species should be fixed by State Governments and a green bonus should also be given to farmers for maintaining the green carbon on their farmland.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. A. K. Pandey, Head Extension Division expressed thanks to all participants, event management team of Extension Division and subject experts of FRI. The programme was anchored by Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist-E of Extension Division.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Glimpses of the meet













