

# CHAPTER-I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. **Scope and Organisation of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been created to formulate, organize, direct, and manage forestry research; transfer the technologies developed to States and other user agencies; and impart forestry education.

The objectives of the Council are: (a) to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate forestry education, research and its application, (b) to develop and maintain a National Library and Information Center for forestry and allied sciences, (c) to act as a clearing-house for research and general information relating to forests and wildlife, (d) to develop forestry extension programmes and propagate the same through mass media, audio-visual aids and extension machinery, (e) to provide consultancy services in the field of forestry research, education and training and (f) to do other things considered necessary to attain the above objectives.

The council has 8 research institutes and 3-advanced center in various parts of the country to cater to the research needs of different biogeographical regions of the nation. These are located at Dehra Dun, Shimla, Allahabad, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore. Activities of these centres are described in the following chapters.

### 2. **Research Initiatives**

Thrust of forestry research is on increasing productivity through genetic and silvicultural improvement; treatment of wasteland; conservation of forest ecosystems; wood substitutes; tribal development; and social forestry.

A National Forestry Research Plan (NFRP) is being developed after working out due priorities looking to resource constraints. For deciding priorities and resource allotment, Research Advisory Committees have been constituted on which all the States Forest Departments have due representation and say. Regional priorities are being worked out by holding seminar/workshops in different States of the Union.

With a view to increasing availability of high quality planting stock for afforestation/reforestation, funds are being provided to State Government for establishment of Seed Production Areas (SPAs), Clonal Seed Orchards (CSOs), Seedling Seed Orchards (SSOs), and Vegetative Multiplication Gardens (VMGs).

The ICFRE has implemented modern nursery programme with root trainer as an important component. This will revolutionise the production of nursery stock and their establishment and growth in the field.

States can benefit tremendously if they actively and enthusiastically participate in research programmes of ICFRE and avail themselves of research facilities available. These facilities at various institutes of ICFRE are available at affordable cost. This includes use of very sophisticated instruments, which States can not afford to install.

Sponsored research is also accepted by ICFRE.

### 3. **Transfer of Technology (Extension activities)**

There is tremendous scope for State Governments, forest based industries, unemployed youth and other user agencies to make use of environmental friendly technologies developed by ICFRE to generate wealth. These technologies will also go a long way in conserving forest resources and biodiversity of the country.

At present, 34 (thirty-four) tested technologies are available for transfer. Seven of these technologies relate to use of secondary plantation species raised under agroforestry/social forestry, 3 are for value addition to products, 13 for improving forest productivity, 7 for new product/substitution of scarce products, and 4 for environmental conservation/reclamation.

Besides, ICFRE is helping States in adopting these technologies by financing projects based on these technologies under the provision of Extension Support Fund. These projects include demonstration of technology and training of users and unemployed youth to create entrepreneurship.

As of now, the States do not have viable extension set up. It will be imperative for them to give adequate attention to this aspect to develop extension infrastructure and provide benefit of research findings to public.

National Forest Library and Information Center (NFLIC) under ICFRE is a storehouse of knowledge and is accessible to State Forest Departments, universities, etc. through the electronic networking. Grey literature on forestry with complete bibliographic details for locating the publications is being computerized for facilitating speedy storage and retrieval. ICFRE has launched its own web site globally visible at <http://www.icfre.up.nic.in> and is widely used.

### 4. **Forestry Education**

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education is imparting forestry education and developing forestry curricula at various levels to accelerate the pace of research and provide expertise in different fields of forestry.

In consonance with National Forest Policy of 1988, the syllabi of the post-graduate courses of universities are being studied to evolve a model syllabus.

Universities providing forestry education are being given grants-in-aid for strengthening their infrastructure and technical capabilities. During current year, financial assistance to the tune of Rs.184 lakhs was granted to various universities.

Opportunities are being provided for furthering the academic advancement of Foresters/Scientists and others in the field of forestry. Currently, nearly 300 persons are registered with the FRI, Deemed University for their Ph.D. degree and 45 persons were provisionally awarded Ph.D during the year 1998-99. The number of SRF, JRF, and RA's is 15, 125 and 28 respectively.

The Council is running two post-graduate degree courses of two year duration in "Forestry Economics & Management" and "Wood Science & Technology". In addition, two post-graduate diploma courses of one-year duration in "Paper & Pulp Technology" and "Plantation Technology" are available.

Overseas training courses are being organised for Foresters/Scientists in the latest research methods in the field of forestry in association with international agencies like the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, IRDC, USDA etc.

Training programmes at the national level are also being organised on topical issues like Research Management, Human Resource Development, Computer Skills and Research Methodology.