A two days workshop on "Climate change & forestry research needs in Himalayas" was organised by Climate Change & Forest Influences Division of FRI, Dehradun on 24-25 Oct, 2011. Prof. N.H. Ravindranath of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who is an internationally acclaimed expert on climate change modelling and his colleague, Ms. Indu Murthy were the lead speakers. Dr. S.S. Negi, Director FRI gave the welcome address and emphasised that since climate change modelling involved various process based influences so there was a need for a symbiotic relationship to arrive at logical and justifiable climate change predictions.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE stressed that forest hydrology was one of the key issues during climate change for water shed based modelling studies to evaluate the empirical relationship between forests and the water flow pattern. He further stated that since the forest ecosystems had undergone several changes in the last 50 years, so there was a need to revisit the forest type classification for their revision.

Prof. Ravindranath explained the modelling approach and the kind of models available to predict changes in climate. He stated that as these models were based on biome related data taken from outside India, so there was an urgent need for stratification of forest area on the basis of Plant Functional Types (PFTs). Ms. Indu

Murthy elaborated in detail the data which are required to be collected for running a model for future climate predictions.

The interdisciplinary project proposed on climate change was discussed threadbare which was much appreciated by Prof. Ravindranath who opined that the project should include the aspect of vulnerability assessment as well. The two days workshop was a success in which the scientists from different fields interacted and gave their views. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks from Sh. M.P. Singh, Head, CC&FI Division, FRI.

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Head

Climate Change & Forest Influences Division

FRI, Dehradun

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