FREC, Patna participation in famous Sonpur Fair, Bihar (10th November 2011 to 9th December 2011)

The Sonpur fair has an intense historic magnificence. According to local folklore Sonpur Cattle Fair revives the Gajendra moksha legend, which is related to the Hariharanatha Temple in Sonpur on the banks of the River Ganga. As mentioned in the travel lecture of a British administrative officer, W W Hynter, in 1919, the Sonpur fair used to be held in over 43 villages in the past. This fair starts on Kartik Purnima, continues for 25 days and spreads over 200 acres of land. It is one Of the Asia's largest cattle fair.

Different Govt. departments display their stall and highlights and publicizes its various schemes. The stalls acts as knowledge centre. Dept. of Environment & Forest, GOB through its pavilion highlights their program and encourages people for plantation and other activities. The ICFRE center at Patna under IFP, Ranchi engaged in promotion of Poplar based Agroforestry (AF) is participating in fair on initiation of PCCF, Bihar since last 4-years and spreading the message of AF.

This time the center has displayed different live models of Boundary, Block & Row plantation along with different agriculture crop (wheat, oat, onion, potato, mustered etc.) in a portion of SFD pavilion. Photographs of different woodlots created under the project activity representing various crop compositions and visit of dignitaries outside forestry domain has been highlighted through flex printing displays. Descriptive flex on prioritizing AF as livelihood opportunities and emphasizing adoption of Poplar as premier species, has also been displayed. In order to popularize different uses of Poplar wood the utility products like toy, cricket bat, stump, acupressure tools etc. were displayed at the counter.

People coming to the forest pavilion taking lot of interest at Agroforestry counter. Visitors and prospective planters discussing chiefly on different crop combination & future sales prospect of Poplar wood. Extension Worker deputed at stall satisfy all their queries. Participation in Sonpur mela is an opportunity for expanding the linkage of ICFRE with the farming community in the region.



Forest pavilion at Sonpur Fair, Bihar



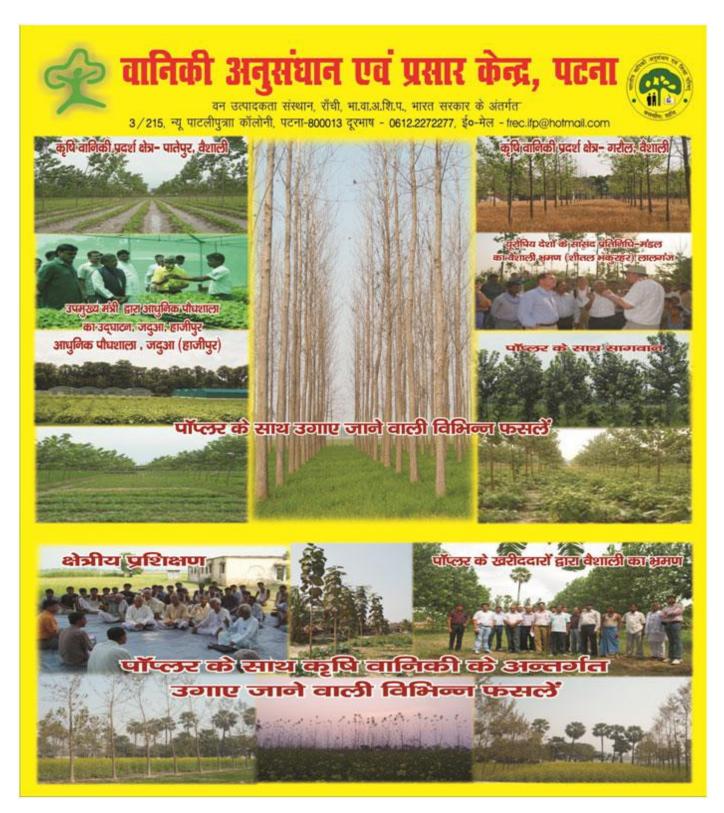
Inside view of pavilion



FREC, Patna demonstrating Poplar based Agroforestry models and its various activities.



Chief guest Dr. D.K. Shukla, CCF (Wildlife), Bihar and other SFD officials at ICFRE demonstration model at Sonpur fair



Flex highlighting different activities under the Vaishali Agroforestry Project.