## Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India took part in Farmers' Meet at RFRI, Jorhat

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India visited Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 and participated in a 'Farmers' Meet' organized by this Institute. On arrival at the Institute's premises, he planted a sapling of Titasopa (Magnolia champaca) followed by inauguration of an Exhibition showcasing the research and development activities of the Institute. Hon'ble Minister took keen interest on different research and development activities of the Institute while visiting various stalls in the Exhibition. He interacted with the Scientists and other research workers present in the stalls and got acquainted with findings of various research projects conducted by the Institute.

Subsequently, Hon'ble Minister was welcomed by all the farmers, tree growers, bamboo artisans, craftsmen, agar traders, JFMC members, govt. officials, members of RFRI family and all other audience present. Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI welcomed the Hon'ble Minister with a traditional *Phulam Gamosa*. He also welcomed other dignitaries on the dias: Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat, Assam; Dr. Anil Kumar, Additional Director General of Forests, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India; Shri Dasarath Mathur, PCCF & HoFF, Assam; Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director (International Cooperation), ICFRE, Dehradun.

Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the 'Farmers' Meet' with the lighting of holy lamp. Dr. Jayaraj formally welcomed the Hon'ble Minister, all the dignitaries in the dias, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat and other Government Officials, farmers, artisans and JFMC members.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Anil Kumar, Additional Director General of Forests, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India elaborated the functions of ICFRE, Dehradun and the role of this Council in forestry research management in the country. He also lauded the contribution of Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat in conserving the biodiversity and attending to the social and economic welfare of local communities.

Shri Dasarath Mathur, PCCF & HoFF, Assam presented a detailed report and an album on the activities of the Jorhat Forest Division to the Hon'ble Minister.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat, Assam stressed on extension of technologies from lab to land so that people of this region are benefitted.

Addressing the public gathering, Hon'ble Minister dwelled upon the role of RFRI, Jorhat for betterment of the society and requested the farmers, entrepreneurs, artisans, etc., of this region to take the benefits of the technologies developed by RFRI. He also requested the scientists and researchers of the Institute to dedicate their service for innovative and productive research to strengthen the nation building activities and sustainable management of biodiversity and bioresources. In his speech, he urged the researchers for patenting their innovative research findings and products. He specially mentioned about patenting some products and processes such as bamboo preservation, alternative to Jigat, artificial agarwood forming technology and plant growth promoting microorganisms developed by this research Institute. He urged the need for effective lab to land transfer of research findings.

As symbol of love and affection from entire RFRI family, Hon'ble Minister was presented with a traditional Japi, a Sofura and a National Flag made from one piece of bamboo. Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director, International Cooperation, ICFRE, Dehradun and also former Director of RFRI, Jorhat delivered a formal vote of thanks. Sri Rajib Kumar Kalita, Head, Forestry Extension Division, RFRI, Jorhat anchored the entire session.

Later, Hon'ble Minister had an open air face-to-face session with JFMC members, farmers, artisans and also replied the queries of journalists on various forestry related issues.

Details of Farmers' Meet and visit of the Hon'ble Minister was widely covered by print and electronic media. All India Radio and Doordarshan published full coverage on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 telecast from New Delhi, Shillong and Guwahati. The news also found first page coverage in different Assamese, English and Hindi dailies on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

## GLIMPSES OF THE VISIT















































































































