

Pre – Congress Workshop of 1st Indian Forestry Congress, 2011

RAIN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education) Jorhat, Assam -785 001

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2011 as the ‘International Year of Forests’. The multiple roles of the forest sector present unique opportunities and challenges. The foresters, no longer confined within forests, have to march out to meet the international commitments as well as to negotiate the democratic aspiration of all the stakeholders of forests. In order to have the synergistic effect of all the efforts presently undertaken by different stakeholders in our country, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi has decided to organise the first Indian Forestry Congress, 2011 and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been entrusted with this task.

For effective organization of the Congress, it was proposed to organize Pre-Congress workshops on each theme at different ICFRE Institutes. In compliance of the task assigned, Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, successfully conducted a Pre–Congress workshop on the theme ‘Forest Biodiversity and Landscapes’ on Sept. 28, 2011.



While welcoming distinguished guests to Pre–IFC workshop, Shri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI, Jorhat apprised about the objectives of the workshop and the task entrusted by ICFRE to RFRI, under the central theme of ‘Forest Biodiversity and Landscapes’. Over all 35 participants including 5 Lead Speakers and equivalent number of Domain Experts participated in the workshop. The Lead Speakers include Dr. A. J. T. Johansingh, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore; Shri D. V. S. Khati, CCF, Garhwal; Dr. Vivek Menon, CEO, Wildlife Trust of India; Shri M. D. Madhusudan, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore and Shri Samir Sinha, Head, TRAFFIC India. The Domain Experts include Prof. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Retd. Head, Dept. of Zoology, Guwahati University; Prof. S. Rama Rao,

Dept. Biotechnology & Bioinformatics, NEHU, Shillong; Dr. Surajit Baruah, State Coordinator, Assam & Arunachal Pradesh, WWF, India; Mr. Albert Solo, CCF and Sri Rajat S. Pal, CCF, Nagaland. There was a presentation on 'Biodiversity of Nagaland' delivered by Sri Rajat S. Pal. The participating Scientists, Officers and other distinguished guests shared their experiences and contributed with valuable suggestions. The day's programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI.



