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FRI to host session of UN poplar commission

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The Forest Research Institute will host the 24th Session of the International Poplar Commission of the United Nations from October 8 to 12. The conference aims at promoting the cultivation, conservation and utilisation of the poplar trees and willows across the globe.

The five-day event will be attended by delegates from as many as 37 countries, including the US, Argentina, Germany, Canada, China, Iran, Iraq, the UK, Japan, South Africa, Pakistan, Portugal, Korea, Chile, Romania and New Zealand.

Presiding over a meeting of senior officers relating to the event, the Director-General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dr VK Bahuguna, directed them

to conduct the preparations in a speedy manner. He congratulated the officers for securing this prestigious international event to be hosted by the FRI in India for the first time and discussed at length the modalities for a successful hosting of the event.

Bahuguna said the poplar tree was the most preferred tree species in agro forestry system of North India. The poplar willow is used in plywood and board, match and paper industry and in the cricket bat industry.

"Harvested at the age of six years, this species is the backbone of a vibrant plywood and board industry. Indigenous poplars and willows are very important for ecology and socio-economy of the Himalayan region," Bahuguna said. The meeting was also attended by Dr SS Negi, MS Garbyal and Dr VRR Singh.