







Report on Virtual Training Programme on High-Tech Forest Nurseries for Officials of Forest Department, Government of Sri Lanka [18-21 January, 2022]

Objective: To train officials of Forest Department, Government of Sri Lanka on High-Tech

Forest Nurseries.

Organizers: FRI-ICFRE an autonomous body under MoEF&CC, Government of India.

Team: Mr. R.P. Singh (IFS), Head, S&FM division, FRI

Dr. Manisha Thapliyal, Scientist-G, S&FM division FRI (Nodal Officer)

Mr. Lokinder Sharma, Scientist-B, S&FM Division FRI

Date: 18-01-2022 to 21-01-2022 (4 Days)

Total Participants:

53 (2 CF, 4 DFO, 2 Additional DFO, 9 RFO, 2 Additional RFO, 4 Forester, 23 Beat Forest Officers, 5 Forest Extension Officer, 1 Plantation labour, 1 Development officer.)

Inaugural Session: On 18-01-2022 inaugural session was started at 9:45 AM, in which following dignitaries were present-

- 1) Honorable Chief Guest- Mr. A.S. Rawat, IFS (DG, ICFRE)
- 2) Honorable Guest Mr. Vinod K. Jacob (Deputy High Commissioner, HCI, Colombo)
- 3) Honorable Guest Dr. K.M.A. Bandara (Conservator General of Forest, Government of Sri Lanka)

In his inaugural speech Director General ICFRE, Shri. A.S. Rawat called for close co-operation and knowledge sharing between India and Sri Lanka through capacity development programmes in the field of forestry and environment. He further highlighted the role of establishment of Hightech Forest Nurseries mass production of quality planting material for afforestation/reforestation programmes.

Whereas Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Vinod K. Jacob flagged Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Davos message, in particular the call for 25 year period of growth. He also highlighted various capacity building programmes organized by Government of India for officials and people of Sri Lanka.

Honorable Guest from Sri Lankan side Dr. K.M.A. Bandara thanked ICFRE and Government of India for organizing this virtual training programme on High-tech Forest Nurseries.

Training Session:

Total 16 Training sessions were conducted by Senior Scientists of Forest Research Institute, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, covering broad areas of High-tech Forest Nurseries like: Concept, importance, site selection, layout, modern infrastructure facilities, nursery operations, production of QPM, Seed processing, Pre-treatment, Sowing techniques, vegetative Propagation, tissue culture techniques, Soil and nutrient management, quality parameters, grading, hardening, labeling, packaging of plants in nurseries, transportation, water management techniques, modern clonal techniques for production of Bamboo and Rattans, Disease management of seed and nursery, insect pest management, restoration and conservation of native mangrove species, production of quality planting material of medicinal plants and NTFP's. At the end of every session 15 minutes time was kept for discussion, in which various queries of participants were responded to.

Discussion and Feedback: On last day i.e. 21-01-2022 at around 3:30 PM a discussion and feedback session was held for about 30 minutes, in which we took feedback from participant's (conservator of forest rank to Beat Forest officer rank) about the training. We also took feedback from lady participants. They all were very appreciative and satisfied, with this virtual training on High-tech Forest Nurseries. They also discussed other problems regarding forestry research in Sri Lanka, and urged ICFRE to organize training on those aspects also.

Closing Session: On 21-01-2022 Valedictory session was started at 4:15 PM, in which following dignitaries were present-

- 1) Honorable Chief Guest- Mr. C.P. Goyal, IFS (DG, Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Government of India)
- 2) Honorable Guest Mr. A.S. Rawat (DG, ICFRE)
- 3) Honorable Guest Mrs. Deepani Alawathgoda (Add. Conservator General of Forest, Government of Sri Lanka)

In his valedictory speech Director General Forests Mr. C.P. Goyal has emphasized on collaboration between forest departments of both the countries. He also praised ICFRE for successfully conducting this 4 days virtual training programme for officials of forest department, Government of Sri Lanka.



