



**Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Conifer Campus
Panthaghati, Shimla – 171013, Himachal Pradesh**



**A Report on
Scientist Student Interaction Program under 'PRAKRITI' Scheme of ICFRE
(MoEF&CC) at Suru Valley, Kargil, Ladakh UT
(Dated 11th July, 2021)**

Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh organized an interaction program with local students of Suru Valley in Kargil district of Ladakh UT. Himalayan Forest Research Institute, an institute under Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun, comes under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has signed two Memorandums of Understanding, (MoUs) with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) as a 'PRAKRITI' programme, for a period of 10 years.

The main objective of the programme is to provide a platform for school children to learn practical skills towards sustainable use of resources. It also aims to promote awareness about forests and environment, and stimulate interest among students in maintaining a balanced environment, and also seeks to provide students with skills that reflect care and protection towards forests, environment and society.

The team of researchers led by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, a Senior Scientist from HFRI, Shimla organised a field interaction with the students of various remote schools of Suru valley in Kargil District of Ladakh, UT. The students were out on community class excursion to Thulus village of Suru valley of the district. They belonged to different schools of the valley; namely Government Middle School, Thvina; Army Goodwill School, Faroona; Government Primary School, Bardum; Government Higher Secondary School, Lankerchay; Government Higher Secondary School, Sankoo; Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyala, Khumbathang and they were led by volunteer teachers of village Thvina. A total of 85 students and their volunteer teachers participated in the open air interactive programme. Dr. Jishtu, a field botanist delivered lecture to the students about the importance of plants to the environment and also gave basic tips on plant identification of common species with live plant demonstrations. He also touched upon various environmental issues in context to the cold desert region of Ladakh. Ms. Astha Chauhan, Junior Research Fellow at HFRI Shimla talked on the theme of ecosystem services and their importance, while Ms. Hasina Bano, Senior Project Fellow interacted in local dialect on the theme of Plant Conservation and efforts to reduce garbage in Ladakh.

The students readily and freely interacted with the HFRI research team, posing some interesting questions. Such interactions prove to be fruitful as they provide an interactive platform to the students, especially in far flung remote regions. This interaction was facilitated by a local parobotanist, Mr. Younis, who besides being a local resident is a Volunteer School teacher from Shankoo village of Suru valley of Kargil District. The participants highly appreciated the deliberations and interaction with the Scientist and Research Scholars and they requested for organizing such meetings in future too.



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Scientist Student Interaction Program

Under PRAKRITI Scheme Of ICFRE (MoEF&CC)

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protection skills towards the natural resources and the society as a whole.

The team of researchers led by Dr. Vaneet Jshu, a senior scientist from HFRI organised a field interaction with the students of various schools of Suru valley in Kargil District of Ladakh. The students were out on community class excursion to Thulus village of Suru valley of the district. The students belonged to Government Middle School Thvina; Army Goodwill School Faraora; Government Primary School Bardum; Government Higher Secondary School Lankerchay; Government Higher Secondary School Sankoo; Jewaher Navodaya Vidhyale Khumbathang and they were led by volunteer teachers of village Thvina.



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Junior Research Fellow at HFRI talked on the theme of ecosystem services and their importance, while Hasina Bano, Senior Project Fellow interacted in local dialect on the theme of plant conservation. Such interactions prove to be

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