



A Report on Training Programme on ‘Nursery and Plantation Techniques of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Shukpa)

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized one day training programme on “Nursery and plantation techniques of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Shukpa)” for the front line officials of Kargil Forest Division at Divisional Forest Office, Kargil on dated 22nd August, 2022. **Sh. Pitamber Singh Negi**, Scientist from Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla presented a detailed presentation on “Nursery and plantation techniques of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Shukpa) before the frontline officials of Kargil Forest Division. In his presentation, he elaborated the importance of Shukpa- an important tree of Trans Himalayan Cold desert. He informed the participants that *Juniperus polycarpus* is naturally found in Cold Desert Areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh Union Territory. The leaves of Shukpa are widely used as incense in temples and monasteries for performing various religious rites by the local communities in cold desert areas. In the past, artificial regeneration technique of this tree through seed was not available. Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla successfully developed seed, nursery and plantation technique of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Shukpa). He further informed the participants that Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla has also established Research-cum-demonstration plantation of Juniper at Van Vigyan Kendra, Badhamibagh, Leh and also distributed 1300 saplings of Juniper to local communities, NGO’s and forest department in Leh and Kargil region for plantation and conservation of this valuable tree in cold desert areas of Ladakh UT. During the training programme, frontline officials of Kargil Forest Division were trained on seed collection, processing, nursery and plantation technique of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Shukpa). 18 front line staff from Kargil and Sankoo Forest Ranges of Kargil Forest Division participated in this training programme. The participants of training programme appreciated the efforts of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla for carrying out various activities for conservation of Juniper in cold desert regions. **Sh. Niyaj Ali**, Forest Range Officer, Kargil thanked the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla for organizing this training programme.





Glimpses of Photos Taken During Training Programme