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

A Report on

Celebration of Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsava

Under theme **'Insect Pest and Disease Management in Cold Desert'** held at Tabo, District Lahaul and Spiti on 27th July, 2021

Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Conifer Campus, Panthaghati, Shimla, celebrated the **Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsava''**, an initiative of Government of India, at Tabo, district Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh on 27th July, 2021 under the theme '**Insect Pest and Disease Management in Cold Desert**'. The event was attended by over 40 participants including Principal, Staff and Students of Serkong School Tabo (Spiti), Officials of Wildlife Division, Kaza, Field Staff of FRS, Tabo, Farmers and Research Scholars of HFRI Shimla.

At the outset, **Dr. Pawan Kumar**, Scientist, Forest Protection Division welcomed the participants and briefed about the background and schedule of the program. **Dr. S.S. Samant**, Director, HFRI, Shimla in his online Inaugural Address highlighted the importance of program and urged all the participants to actively participate in the discussion. He further elaborated on the HFRI's initiatives in the cold deserts viz., Management of Insect pests and diseases of cold deserts, identification of indigenous species for planting, development of nursery techniques of important native species viz., *Eleagnus angustifolia, Hippophae rhamnoides* sp. *turkestanica*, *Fraxinus xanthoxyloides* and *Quercus ilex*, documentation of flora of Hemis High Altitude National Park of Ladakh, etc.

Dr. Ashwani Tapwal, Scientist-F, HFRI highlighted the diseases of trees species of cold deserts and elaborated the mechanism of disease development, its spread and possible management strategies. He discussed the potential of biocontrol agents like *Trichoderma*, *Bacillus*, *Pseudomo*nas, *Agrobacterium*, etc. in disease management. He also elaborated the formulation of *Trichoderma* sp. available in market, their method of application and efficacy against key pathogens. Dr. Tapwal was of the opinion that the eco-friendly management of diseases should be practiced. He also informed participants that the HFRI provides the management strategies for stakeholders, if any insect-pest or disease outbreak is observed in their region.

In Technical Session, **Dr. Pawan Kumar,** Scientist-E, HFRI, Shimla gave power point presentation on the butterfly and moth diversity of the Cold Desert region. He informed that in H.P. about 228 species of butterflies and 184 species of moths have been identified. Dr. Rana explained collection and identification mechanism of butterflies and moths, their habitats and life cycle. He highlighted the importance of butterflies and moths as indicator of climate change and importance in an ecosystem. He also listed some species of moths responsible for defoliation of

Poplar and Salix in cold deserts. He stressed upon the use of biocontrol practices instead of using insecticides to control the pests attack. He was of the opinion to develop butterfly parks for the conservation of these species and creation of awareness among people.

Beside the sensitization of participants on insect-pests and diseases of forestry species of cold deserts through audio visual deliberations, a filed visit of the participants was also conducted to demonstrate the invasion of insects-pests and diseases on the tree species at Tabo, L&S (H.P.)

The participants of the event highly appreciated the efforts made by the Institute and wished for organization of such events frequently in future too.

The program culminated with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Ashwani Tapwal.

Glimpses of the Programme


भारत का अमृत महोत्सव
स्थान : तांबो, लाहौल और स्पीति (हि.प्र.)
दिनांक : 27 जुलाई, 2021
आयोजक
हिमालयन वन अनुसंधान संस्थान
Skeletonizer attack on Salix
Insect Gall of Salix


What is disease


भारत का अमृत महोत्सव
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