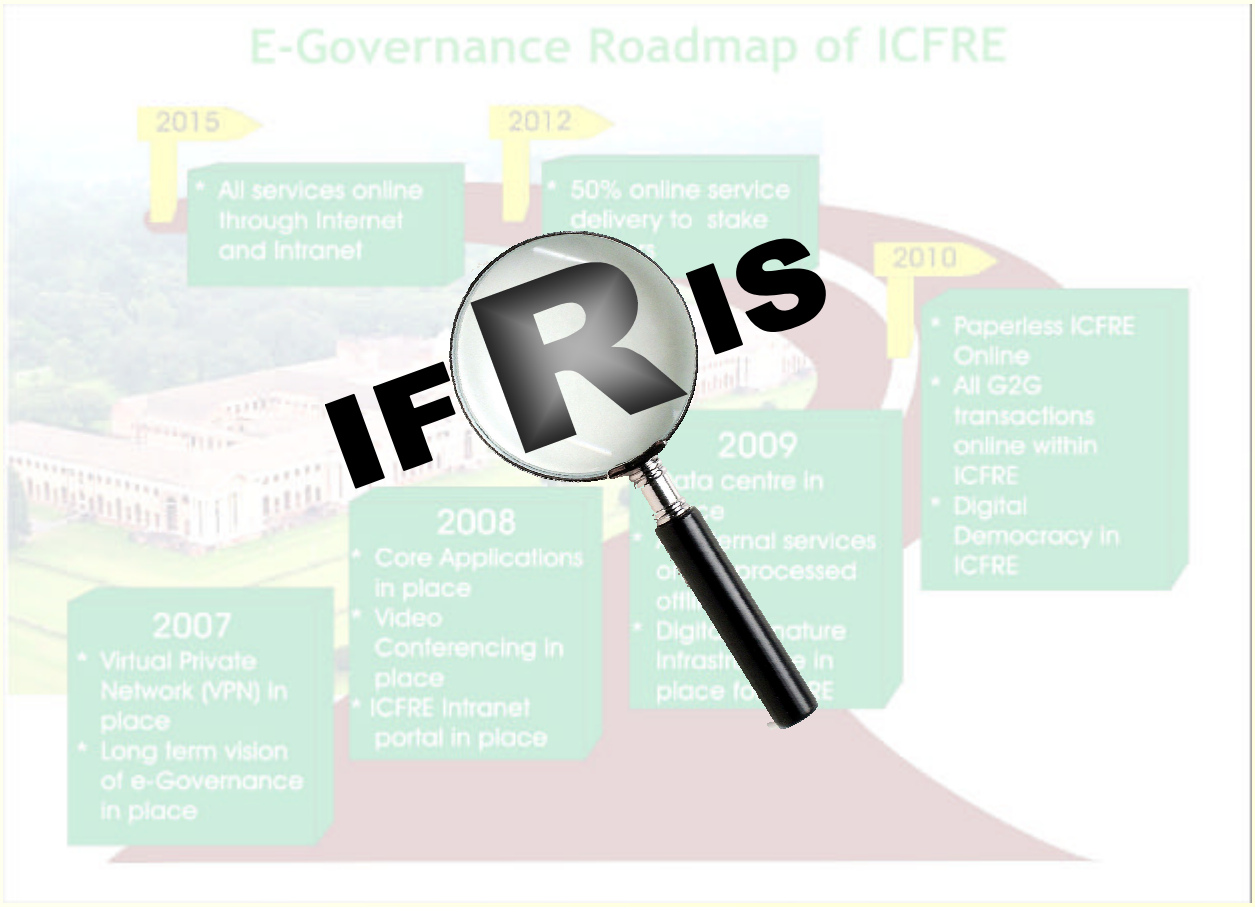
e-parivartan

December '08 and January '09
(Vol. I : Issue-9 and 10)



IFRIS at a Glance

Stage I	**Conceptualization**
	(07th June 2006 to 31st January 2007)
Stage II	**Project Development including Business Process Re-engineering**
	(15th March 2007 to 31st August 2007)
Stage III	**Software Development and Implementation (January 2008)**
	Pilot Rollout : October 2008 System Go : Live : March 2009

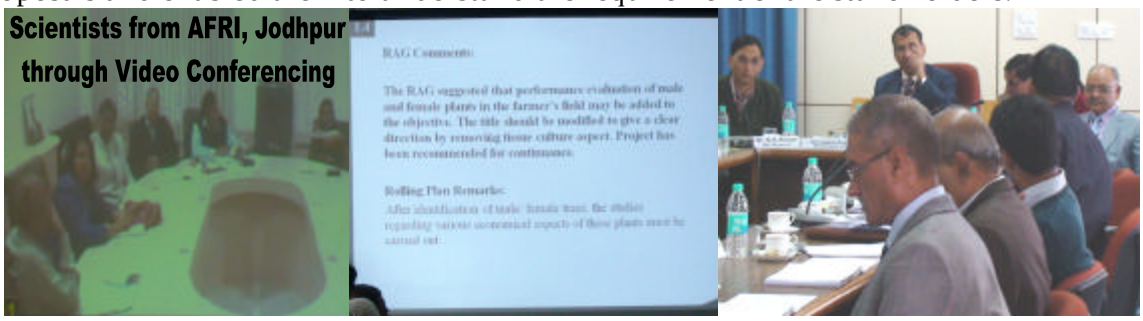
ICFRE

About e-parivartan

This newsletter "***ICFRE e-parivartan***" aims to cover the e-governance developments leading to transformation of ICFRE from manual to the electronic environment at ICFRE, its institute / research centers located in different geographical region across the country. The newsletter is a monthly publication for limited circulation (intra-ICFRE and its stake holders) to increase the awareness of the IFRIS Project. ***e-parivartan*** will be a forum for sharing the views of the Management, the e-champions, users and the developers of the system. Your valuable feedback and inputs on the subject are solicited !

ICT ENABLED SCIENTISTS TO INTERACT WITH RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

The scientists prepare a project and present in to the Research Advisory Group (RAG) constituted at institute level. RAG recommends the proposals to RPC for its approval wherein all the Directors of ICFRE Institutes participate. The participation of scientists was earlier restricted to RAG at institute level only and it was not possible for a scientist to interact with the RPC. This time however, as a major value addition of ICT in research formulation and approval the Scientists from ICFRE Institutes viz.; Shimla, Jabalpur, Jorhat, Jodhpur, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Ranchi were enable to interact through Video Conferencing in the RPC Meeting held from 11.02.2009 to 13.02.2009. This enabled greater participation and involvement of scientists which in turn improved the quality of research proposals and enabled them to understand the requirement of the stake holders.



RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND GRANT MODULES OF IFRIS - SIGNED-OFF

As a major achievement for IFRIS during the development phase, the stakeholders, the ADGs and DDGs with the research and extension directorates at ICFRE Hqrs have given their formal sign-off in the respective modules of the IFRIS application. The Research Information Management System, Forestry Extension Management System, Forestry Education and Grant Management System, Online publication and Information System were demonstrated successfully to the end users at ICFRE.

The user acceptance team at ICFRE went through the system and verified the working of the features as stipulated in the System Requirement Specification (SRS) document prepared for IFRIS application development. The user feedbacks were addressed by SRIT to their satisfaction. A signoff on these modules was also obtained from the respective team leaders with the understanding that any further issues during training and subsequent 'Go-Live' would be addressed by SRIT. Apart from the above mentioned modules development and user testing of Audit management system, Bio-diversity and Climate Change Division Management system and Electronic Document Management system were also completed successfully at ICFRE Hqrs, IWST, Bangalore and HFRI, Shimla.

SECOND PHASE OF PILOT ROLL-OUT BEGINS FROM IWST, BANGALORE

The New Year started on a positive note with the second phase of IFRIS Application roll-out that began in IWST, Bangalore on 05th January 2009 and lasted for seven days till 09th Jan'09. There was a lot of expectation and anticipation for the second phase since the

application had already been shown once during the first phase and feedback given to the developers. IWST, Bangalore was in high spirits for this roll-out under which the interactive training and UAT was conducted. The functional consultants from SRIT demonstrated the application to various user groups and trained them in the respective modules.

The second phase tried to address the issues which were flagged during the initial roll-out. During the UAT, the users at IWST Bangalore came up with further feedbacks and recommendations for improvement. These feedbacks would go a long way to make the system more robust. Sh. M.S. Garbyal, DDG (Admin), ICFRE interacted with the users in the institute during pilot roll-out through VC. On the final day Dr. Harish Kumar, PM, eGov interacted with the various user groups to gather feedbacks which was highly encouraging and it was ensured that the feedbacks would be incorporated before the system goes live.

USER ACCEPTANCE TESTING (UAT) STARTS AT ICFRE HQRS

With the Research and extension Modules of the IRFIS application already shown to the stakeholders and DDGs during the first phase of implementation and UAT, now it was time to demonstrate the non-research modules of IFRIS developed by SRIT to the concerned e-champions and stakeholders at ICFRE.

The second phase of IFRIS UAT/Rollout began at ICFRE from 19th January 09. The functional consultants from SRIT demonstrated the Financial Accounting system, Procurement and Inventory, Personal Information System and Payroll Management system. The Vigilance Management System, Estate Management System and Scientific Services management system were also shown to the end users. Various Teams of officials were constituted at the ICFRE Hqrs to carry out, test and validate the whole process of User acceptance Testing. Team leaders from each team were identified who would be responsible for giving the final acceptance of the module. The teams gave relevant feedbacks and recommendations directed towards improving the modules.

IFRIS APPLICATION TRAINING CONDUCTED AT INSTITUTES

The Functional consultants from SRIT began traveling to the various institutes to show the IFRIS Application and initiate hands-on training on the application. The training began towards the end of November 2008. The SRIT team spent one to two weeks at each institute and covered the following institutes –

Institute Name	From	To
IFGTB, Coimbatore	26th Nov '08	2nd Dec '08
TFRI, Jabalpur	19th Jan '09	30th Jan '09
IFP, Ranchi	2nd Feb '09	12th Feb '09
RFRI, Jorhat	15th Feb '09	Still Continuing
HFRI, Shimla	18th Feb '09	Still Continuing

The Team intends to cover all the remaining institutes by the end of the February '09. The users were shown the application and trained on the various modules of IFRIS.

E-CHAMPIONS STRENGTHENED FOR GO-LIVE

The ICFRE has been proactive in building the capacity of e-champions towards ensuring a successful implementation of IFRIS. The three e-champions trainings and application testing helped the e-champions get accustomed to the IFRIS Application. With the system ready for deployment and User acceptance testing beginning at the institutes, the e-Champions are again at the forefront to make the IFRIS roll-out a grand success. The e-Champions are taking lead in studying and understanding the system and replicating the learning across all the levels. This, as anticipated by ICFRE, was essential to ensure that IFRIS modules met the stakeholder needs and expectations and facilitate a smooth adoption of the same. To facilitate the e-champions, they were provided with mobile computers which would give them greater mobility while they are on the job and freedom to access the application anywhere and anytime.

IFRIS IN MEDIA – (THE TRIBUNE –DEHRADUN PLUS : 10.02.2009)

Come November, Uttarakhand to go fully online

JOTIRMAY THAPLIYAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 9

e-governance continues to be on the priority list of Uttarakhand as it is in the process of successfully implementing of the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) project. The project began in August 2008.

On its completion, it will put Uttarakhand on the e-governance map of the country. The National Informatics Centre, which is implementing the Rs 76 crore project, is hopeful that the project would be completed by November.

"The state is taking big strides towards e-governance and the completion of the SWAN project will certainly be a big achievement," said Dr Devratna Shukla, director, National Informatics Centre, Dehradun.

He said the state has already achieved targets through e-governance in public service institutions like transport and land records departments. As many as eight regional transport offices have gone online while rural land records up till tehsil levels are online.

The implementation committee will hold consultations with various district magistrates shortly for the speedy implementation of the project.

Welcoming the NIC efforts towards speedy implementation of SWAN projects, IT experts see a better future for Uttarakhand on the e-governance front. "Completion of the SWAN project will certainly boost e-governance," Dr Harish Kumar, scientist E at the Information Technology cell of Indian Council of Forestry Research Education.

Dr Kumar, who had been working on state-of-the-art e-governance in the state, has been contemplating comprehensive Information Technology software solution called Indian Forestry Research Information (IFRIS).

The software aims to transform the present manual working environment into an automated system. Taking into account the IFRIS success, many national agencies are approaching ICFRE to generate in-house talent pool.

The next edition of ICFRE e-parivartan solicits your views on the process of change envisaged by the institution.

Editors

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