

# CHAPTER-I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Scope and Organisation of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

The Council is the premier forestry research organization of the country with the mandate to formulate, organize, direct, and manage forestry research, transfer the technologies developed for States and other user agencies; and impart forestry education.

The objectives of the Council are: (a) to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate forestry education, research and its application, (b) to develop and maintain a National Library and Information Center for forestry and allied sciences, (c) to act as a clearing-house for research and general information relating to forests and wildlife, (d) to develop forestry extension programmes and propagate the same through mass media, audio-visual aids and extension machinery, (e) to provide consultancy services in the field of forestry research, education and training and in allied sciences and (f) to do other things considered necessary to attain these objectives.

The Council has 8 research institutes and 3 advanced centers in various parts of the country to cater to the research needs of different bio-geographical regions of the nation. These are located at Dehra Dun, Shimla, Allahabad, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore. Activities of these centres are described in the following chapters.

### 2. Research Initiatives

The thrust of current forestry research is on reducing pressure on natural resources by increasing productivity through genetic and silvicultural improvement, and making available wood substitutes; eco-restoration through treatment of wasteland; conservation of forest ecosystems; tribal development; and social forestry.

A comprehensive National Forestry Research Plan (NFRP) has been developed after working out due priorities looking to resource constraints. Regional research priorities were worked out in consultation with the stakeholders by holding seminar/workshops in different States of the Union followed by a national workshop. For deciding projects and resource allotment, Research Advisory Committees have been constituted on which all the State Forest Departments have due representation and say.

With a view to increasing availability of high quality planting stock for afforestation/reforestation purpose, funds are being provided to State Government for establishment of Seed Production Areas (SPAs), Clonal Seed Orchards (CSOs), Seedling Seed Orchards (SSOs), and Vegetative Multiplication Gardens (VMGs).

Implementation of modern nursery program with root trainer is an important component of current research activities. This will revolutionise the production of nursery stock and plant establishment and growth in the field.

States can benefit tremendously if they actively and enthusiastically participate in research programs of ICFRE and avail themselves of research facilities available. These facilities at various institutes of ICFRE are available at affordable cost without much investment. This includes use of very sophisticated instruments, which the States can not afford to install.

Sponsored research is also accepted by ICFRE.

### **3. Transfer of Technology (Extension activities)**

There is tremendous scope for State Governments, forest based industries, unemployed youth and other user agencies to make use of environmental friendly technologies developed by ICFRE to generate wealth. These technologies will also go a long way in conserving forest resources and biodiversity of the country.

At present, 40 (forty) tested technologies are available for transfer. These are about use of secondary plantation species raised under agro forestry/social forestry, value addition to products, improving forest productivity, new product/substitution of scarce products, and environmental conservation/reclamation.

Besides, ICFRE is helping States in adopting these technologies by financing projects based on these technologies under Extension Support Fund. These projects include demonstration of technology and training of users and unemployed youth to create entrepreneurship.

As of now, the States do not have viable extension set up. It will be imperative for them to give adequate attention to this aspect to develop extension infrastructure and provide benefit of research findings to public.

National Forest Library and Information Center (NFLIC) under ICFRE is a storehouse of knowledge and provides the same to State Forest Departments, universities, etc. through the electronic networking. Grey literature on forestry with complete bibliographic details is being collected and computerized for facilitating speedy storage and retrieval of documents. ICFRE has launched its own web site which can be accessed globally at <http://www.icfre.up.nic.in>.

### **4. Forestry Education**

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education is imparting forestry education and developing forestry curricula at various levels to accelerate the pace of research and to provide expertise in different fields of forestry research.

In consonance with National Forest Policy of 1988, the syllabii of the post-graduate courses of universities that are being studied to evolve a model syllabus.

Universities providing forestry education are being given grants-in-aid for strengthening their infrastructure and technical capabilities. During current year the financial assistance to the tune of Rs.200 lakhs were granted to various universities.

Opportunities are being provided for furthering the academic advancement of Foresters/Scientists and others in the field of forestry. 40 persons were provisionally awarded Ph.D during the year 1999-2000. The number of SRF, JRF, and RA's was 23, 107 and 16 respectively.

The Council is running two post-graduate degree courses of two years duration in "Forestry (Economics & Management)" and "Wood Science & Technology". In addition, two post-graduate diploma courses of one-year duration in "Paper & Pulp Technology" and "Plantation Technology" are available.

Overseas training courses are being organised for Foresters/Scientists in the latest research methods in the field of forestry in association with international agencies like the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, IDRC and USDA etc.

Training programmes at the national level are also being organised on topical issues like Research Management, Human Resource Development, Computer Skills and Research Methodology.