

Himalayan day

(09-09-2013)

The Himalayas of Uttarakhand are rich in biodiversity and many other natural resources. The Himalayan ecosystem is facing challenges such as population growth, natural resources degradation, stress on ecosystems, climate change, melting glaciers, increasing disaster risks. For challenges, everyone should adopt strategy for sustainable development of human settlements, conservation & protection of ecosystems, natural resources, water resources, strengthening of ecosystem services, disaster risk reduction, population growth etc.

Keeping in view of emerging issues for conservation of Himalayan ecosystem and its sustainable development, the Forest Research Institute celebrated the Himalayan day on 9th September, 2013. The aim of this celebration was to discuss different issues on various components of Himalayan ecosystem and collect some strategic ideas from dignitaries. The theme for this year's Himalayan Day is **“SAVE HIMALAYAS SAVE SELF”**.

Jayshree Ardey Chauhan, the Director in charge in her welcome address apprised the distinguished guests about importance of Himalayas for livelihood of people. She further emphasized the protection and conservation of Himalayan ecosystem as the moral duty of everyone.

Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Uttarakhand graced the occasion as Chief Guest of the event. In his address he advised that recommendations of institutes working on Himalayan ecology and environment should be taken into consideration while developmental activities are being taken. He also said that for sustainable and ecofriendly conservation and development of the Himalayan ecosystem, an inter-sectoral planning is a need of the hour. He was of the view that appropriate professional knowledge should be appreciated at every level.

Dr. T. P. Singh, Asstt. Director General (Climate Change), ICFRE delivered introductory talk on climate change and its impact on Himalayan Ecosystem. He suggested alternative energy sources to minimize the pressure on forests specially fuel wood from forests. He supported Eco-tourism to enhance hill economy.

Dr. S. T. S. Lepcha, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in his address spoke about the importance of Agri –horticulture systems for the benefit of farmers of Uttarakhand. He further reiterated the need of awareness and skill development for adoption of trees on farm lands in Himalayan region of the State. He mentioned that some alternative strategies should be made to fulfill the daily needs of local people who are depending on forests.

Dr. G. S. Goraya, Dy. Director General (Research), ICFRE in his speech mentioned that issues of conservation of Himalayan ecosystem should be flagged on priority. He said that pilgrim and tourism in Himalayan region may be beneficial for enhancing livelihood options of people but carrying capacity is needed to be known. He informed the house about impact of Ecotourism on health of forests especially mentioned about exploitation of pole crop from forests for pitching tent.

Dr. Subhash Nautiyal, Scientist-G, FRI gave emphasis on conservation of flora and fauna of Himalayan region to establish ecological balance in the nature. He opined that cultivation of medicinal and cash crops could enhance the economy of local people.

There was also a question hour session where questions on different aspects of Himalayan ecosystem and climate change were asked by audience and answered by the esteemed panelists.

As a prelude to the celebration a painting competition was organized for Junior and Senior category of Students in Kendriya Vidyalay, FRI. Likewise a competition was organized for FRI Deemed University students wherein the students were asked to deliver a talk on the theme. The prizes were given to the recipients of first, second, third & consolation prizes by the honourable Chief Guest Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, PCCF, Uttarakhand.

Dr. Subhash Nautiyal, Scientist-G, FRI extended vote of thanks to all panelists and distinguished guest at the end of the programme.

All officers, scientists of ICFRE, FRI, Research scholars and students of FRI Deemed University were present on this occasion.

Glimpses of the Event



Dignitaries on Dias



Welcome address by Jayshree Ardey Chauhan, Officiating Director, FRI



Introductory speech by Dr. T. P. Singh, ADG (CC), ICFRE



Address by Dr. S.T.S. Lepcha, Additional PCCF, Uttarakhand



Address by Dr. G. S. Goraya, Dy. Director General (Research), ICFRE



Mastering of ceremony by Dr. Meena Bakshi, Scientist-D, FRI



Vote of thanks by Dr. Subhash Nautiyal, Scientist-G, FRI



Dr. V. R. S. Rawat, Scientist-F, during Question hour session



Address by the Chief Guest Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, PCCF, Uttarakhand

Prize distribution by the Chief Guest Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, PCCF, Uttarakhand





