

VISIT OF KFW, GERMANY TEAM

to

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department through the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh proposed a project proposal on **Climate Change** to KFW ó World's Leading Development Bank with its decades of experience in improving economic, social and ecological living conditions all around the world on behalf of Federal Republic of Germany for its external funding. After completing number of procedures, the state Forest Department Himachal Pradesh now is in the final stages for signing of an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bank.

In the process and with objectives to include research components in the project, SFD HP organized a visit of the team to HFRI, Shimla. Accordingly, a two member team of experts comprising of **Mr. Mortiz Reme, Project Manager, Natural Resource and Climate Asia and Ms. Sangeeta Agarwal, Sector Specialists – Natural Resource Management on behalf of KFW, Germany** visited Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla on **3rd April 2014**. This team was accompanied to the institute by **Dr. VRR Singh, Ex-Director, HFRI** and now the Additional PCCF (M&E), HPSFD and Sh. Aneesh Sharma Divisional Forest Officer, MC Shimla. The meeting was also attended by the Head of Divisions of different research divisions of the institute.

At the outset, Dr. KS Kapoor, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla welcomed the team and briefed about the mandate of ***Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)*** and various research and extension activities of the institute as well. A specific mention of the research activities being carried out by the institute especially on the phenomenon of Climate Change was made by Dr. Kapoor before the team. Once he finished with his introductory remarks, the team members, Mr. Mortiz and Ms. Aggarwal from KFW Germany also briefed about the purpose of this visit to this institute and also find a linkage of research activities of the institute in this proposed programme.

With this brief introduction, Director, HFRI asked the concerned scientist to make the presentations of works they are carrying out with special reference to the phenomenon of Climate Change. The first presentation was made by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist-C on his project titled “**High Altitude Transition Zone: Long Term Studies to Assess the Effect of Global Warming**”, which he is carrying out as the PI in collaboration with the State Forest Department Himachal Pradesh. The second presentation on the project titled “**Assessment of Carbon Stock in Different Forest Types of Shimla Circle**” was given by Dr. RK Verma Scientist-F. Dr. Verma shared with the members, the information he generated out of the project and its practical applications with regard to climate change., Third presentation in the series was made by Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Scientist-F on “**Studies on the Influence of Climate Change on the Bionomics of *Pityogenus scitus* in Himachal Pradesh**”, where he discussed about the behavioral changes and their effects on forest health and highlighted the findings of his project. Summing up the discussion Dr. Kapoor once again emphasized on the subjectivity of each the projects on climate change being pursued by the institute and the contribution that this research institute can make on the related issues.

When asked specifically, the team was informed that the institute keeps on helping the departments on the technical fronts and the recent inputs includes the studies on replacement of chir-pine with broad leaved species, eradication of *Lantana camara* and conservation of natural springs in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The team members were also given first hand information of the institutional research activities during their visit to the research laboratories.

The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

SOME CLIPPINGS

