

## **CBD Expert Group Meeting on ‘Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development’ at ICFRE Auditorium, ICFRE, Dehradun from 12 -15 December 2011**

In ICFRE, a four day United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting is being organized from 12 to 15 December 2011. The Coordinator of the Meeting Dr Renu Singh, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE briefed that the meeting is one of the important intersessional meetings, the outcomes of which will feed into the eleventh Conference of the Parties (CoP-11) to the CBD which will be hosted in Hyderabad by India in October 2012. This Expert Group has been mandated to undertake an analysis of the existing mechanisms, processes or initiatives for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development. The Expert Group is expected to explore biodiversity contribution to poverty alleviation and vice versa in the context of development processes.

While welcoming the participants during the inaugural session on 12 December 2011, Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE stated that effective conservation of biodiversity is essential for human survival and the maintenance of ecosystem processes. He called upon the participants to encourage development outlooks and practices that conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Dr. R.B.S. Rawat, PCCF of Uttarakhand State Forest Department, the Chief Guest of the inaugural function, emphasised that the biodiversity and poverty eradication are intrinsically linked, and demand integrated efforts in development processes.

Mr. Hem Pande, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India presided over the inaugural ceremony, and briefed about the commitments of the Government of India to include biodiversity as an integral part of the growth process, since this is the only path whereby our country can sustain high economic growth.

Mr. Ravi Sharma, Principal Officer and representative of the CBD Secretariat stated that the CBD is committed to develop more active strategies for biodiversity conservation integrating the aspects of poverty eradication and different developmental activities with emphasis on livelihood needs.

The CBD Expert Group Meeting is attended by Expert Group of 17 CBD Country Parties; 2 representatives from United Nations and Specialized Agencies; 7 Inter Governmental Organizations; 9 Non Governmental Organizations; and 3 representatives from Indigenous and Community Organizations, Universities and Observers.

