

## **Interactive Meeting between Department of Environment & Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and IFGTB on Forestry Research and Extension on 27.9.2011**

The stakeholder meet was conducted on 27.9.2011 in the Committee Room, Van Sadan, Port Blair. Shri S.S. Choudhary, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests, A&N Administration, Shri D.V. Negi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, Shri Madhawa Trivedy, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator Forests (Administration and Vigilance), Dr. Alok Saxena, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning and Development), Shri S.K. Bhandari, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Working Plan), Shri A.K. Shukla, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Smti N. Kala, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, (Coastal Zone & Forest Conservation), Shri George Jacob, IFS, Conservator of Forests (Headquarters), Ms. Kamalpreet, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests(Working Plan), Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Director, Science and Technology, Shri T.B. Chatterjee, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests(Silviculture), Shri S.K. Das, Deputy Conservator of Forests(Social Forestry and Extension), Shri S.H.K. Murthy, Assistant Conservator of Forests (planning and Statistics), Shri P.K. Paul, Assistant Conservator of Forests (Legal Cell) and Shri Rajee George, Range Officer, (GIS Cell) represented the Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Dr. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Head, Forest Economics and Extension Division, Shri S.Saravanan, Scientist D, Smt. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist D and Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist C from IFGTB attended the meeting.

Shri S.S. Choudhury, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Secretary (Environment and Forests) while delivering the inaugural address welcomed the officers and the scientists of IFGTB on behalf of the department.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB presented the action taken report on the previous stakeholder meet held on May 2010 and the research and extension activities of the institute.

PCCF asked the institute to propose a study on the impacts of forests and the soil in the forest areas under Selection system, which were earlier worked under Shelterwood system and the interval between the successive workings has reduced from 75 years to 30 years. PCCF requested the institute to indicate the budget requirement for the study for funding by the department.

Decided to develop nursery techniques for the species for which the nursery techniques are not available. The seed handling techniques, seed storage methods and nursery practices have to be standardized for these species.

Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Head, FE&E Division, IFGTB presented the NFRP funded projects on *Development of models for conversion of plantations into secondary forests in Andaman Islands* and *Restoration ecology and species recovery studies in Tsunami*

*impacted mangrove areas of Andamans* and discussed at length including the modalities involved in implementation of the project.



The department agreed to provide the required manpower for collection of seeds and propagules, nursery establishment, thinning operations, weeding and other cultural operations, maintenance of sample plots, assisted natural regeneration and artificial Regeneration for restoration of damaged mangrove areas, conversion of plantations and their maintenance in South Andaman, Baratang, Middle Andaman, Mayabunder and Diglipur at its own cost. The funds provided under the projects will be used for the salary, wages of Junior Research Fellows field assistant and their travel.

Regarding the vegetation survey under project Development of models for conversion of plantations into secondary forests in Andaman Islands a sample plot of size 0.2 ha would be laid in moist deciduous forests, semi evergreen forests and evergreen forest adjacent to the plantations and in the plantations in each island group. However, it is mentioned that the number of sample plots in each forest types in each island group will be decided based on the species area curve method.

Regarding the treatments to be adopted for conversion of plantations it was agreed that in addition to the treatments envisaged in the project control plot has to be kept with out any treatment. The area already treated by the department should also be monitored.

In the restoration of mangrove areas, it was suggested to explore the other methods, fish bone method, Rill method for restoration in addition to the Ecological Restoration Method. It was mentioned that the referees who reviewed the project particularly from the Mangrove Action Programme suggested to go for Ecological Restoration Methods and by this method the mangroves have been successfully restored in Indonesia.

It was discussed whether to leave the areas of mangroves damaged due to upliftment particularly at Diglipur to allow for other vegetation to come up. It was pointed that restoration efforts would be carried out wherever possible and feasible through ecological methods using mangrove species and in other places, the choice of species will be decided based on the regeneration potential of the areas.

It was decided to execute all the field activities related to the project by the respective Divisional Forest Officers coordinated by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Research and Working Plan. Also, decided to place the Junior Research Fellows and Field Assistants recruited of the projects under the Chief Conservator of Forests, Research and Working Plan, who will monitor the activities of JRFs at Andaman.

Discussions were held on *Calophyllum inophyllum* and *Neolamarckia cadamba* projects regarding selection of CPTs and collection of seeds for germplasm assemblage at the institute.