

Report of National Seminar on Bamboo Reserve Management and Advances in Utilization Options at Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru (23rd to 25th February 2016)

Inauguration of the seminar was started with Welcome address by **Sri. Surendra Kumar, IFS, Director**, IWST who extolled the virtues of bamboo as an important bio-resource in India. He also introduced the other Guests at dais to the audience comprising of more than 80 delegates who had assembled from various parts of India. **Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, Assistant Director General (Research & Planning)**, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) explained the rationale for conducting this seminar on Bamboo Reserve Management and Advances in Bamboo Utilization Options with emphasis on bamboo flowering, bamboo agro forestry and new age value added products. **Dr. B.N. Mohanty, IFS, Director**, Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru in his key note address highlighted the work on value added products for bamboo from corrugated bamboo roof sheets, earthquake proof bamboo housing, flooring, bamboo lumber, veneer boards and panel boards. The function was presided over by **Sri. Nagesh Prabhu IFS, Member Secretary**, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru who described the importance of bamboo literally for the “cradle to grave” citing appropriate examples in utilization of bamboo during the various growth phases of mankind when bamboo was being used knowingly or unknowingly since childhood through adolescence and adulthood to the final stage of graveyard.

This was followed by address of the Chief Guest of the seminar **Sri. M. Lokeswara Rao, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force**, Nagaland. He dealt upon the problem of gregarious flowering problem of some bamboo species in North East and prospects of value addition in bamboo products. This was followed by the release of Abstract cum Souvenir of the National Bamboo Seminar and IWST Technical Bulletin on cultivation prospects of edible bamboo shoots in South India as well as a CD containing 20 minutes documentary movie on *Dendrocalamus stocksii* (Marihal bamboo), an endemic species of Central Western Ghats.

Lastly a vote of thanks was proposed by **Dr. Pankaj Aggarwal, Organizing Secretary**, IWST, Bengaluru. He thanked all the Guests and the delegates who came from all over India to attend the seminar. A field visit to “Grow More Biotech” was also organized on 25th February 2016 wherein a total of 50 delegates participate. Field trip was followed by a visit to the 35 ha *Bambusa balcooa* bamboo plantation established by Growmore in INFOSYS campus in Sarjapur, Bengaluru.

(Pankaj Aggarwal)
Organizing Secretary

The seminar photos are follows





















