

XII Five Year Plan – Working Group on Forestry and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Various wings of Government of India are in the process of assessing the requirements under various sectors for next five years which will be reflected in the proposed schemes under XII Plan Document. The Forestry Sector has constituted five sub-groups under Working Groups on Forestry and Sustainable Natural Resource Management. An important sub-group is formed on Forestry Institutional and Technology Management which is headed by Director General, ICFRE Dr. V.K. Bahuguna IFS. All important institutions in the field of forestry are integrated with this sub-group which includes ICFRE, IGNFA, FSI, WII, CASFOS, IIFM, IPIRTI, etc. Experts from all these institutes are working on preparing the requirement in forestry sector for next five years. Apart from fulfilling the requirement of basic ongoing activities, many new initiatives are going to be incorporated in the next plan. All trainings of Forest Officers/ staff is proposed to be brought under one ambit of Director General (Training) with the apex scale and role of Director, IGNFA will be enhanced to hold this post. The other new innovative ideas include technological upgradation of State Forest Departments, Forestry institutions and Forestry personnel's. The rapid development in the sector of Information Technology necessitates building technological capacity of forest staff at all levels. Moreover, the technology should also be upgraded to the extent that the information flows in real time manner. That would assist in better management in the events of natural disasters, will assist in checking illegal activities in the forests and that would also enhance the morales of forestry personnel. Proposals are also made for development and upgradation of infrastructure in all the states. New innovative schemes such as subsidized Food for Forest personnel; Group Insurance Cover and Medi-claim facilities for forest staff; Basic housing, education, medical and other facilities for families of forest staff; properly and adequately equipping the forest staff; strengthening manpower resources of forest departments of all states; etc.

A meeting was organized at the Board Room of FRI on 30th July 2011 in which Director General, ICFRE Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, Director, IGNFA Dr. R.D. Jakati, Director General, FSI Shri A. K. Wahal, Director, FRI Dr. S. S. Negi, Principal, CASFOS Mrs. Savita and other experts from ICFRE, IGNFA, FSI, WII and DFE. The proposals were discussed and the group will finalize its report by **3rd August, 2011** and will make its presentation at MoEF, New Delhi. The new initiatives proposed in this plan will definitely provide a better environment for the working of all wings of forest departments and will help in conservation and better management of precious natural resources for which we are the custodian for the future generation.

