

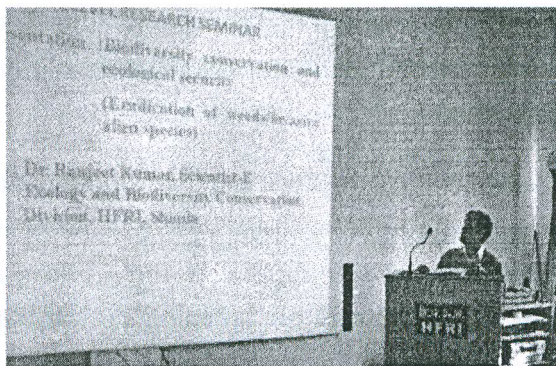
PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL SEMINAR

Consequent upon the approval for organizing institute level periodical seminars to further identify and prioritise the research needs for improving the quality of research, a seminar on the theme “**Eradication of weeds/ invasive alien species**” on the issue “**Biodiversity conservation and ecological security**” - first in series was organised at the institute on 29th September, 2017. All the scientists, forest officers, researchers and technical staff were present during the seminar.

At the start, Dr. K.S Kapoor, Group Co-ordinator Research, HFRI explained the intent behind organising such seminar at the institute. He appraised the researchers about the objective of these periodical seminars at the institute level. He also explained about the broad structure of the seminar including the content to be adopted by the scientists for these seminars. Expected out come of the monthly research seminar as envisaged in the proposals was also elaborated upon by him.



Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, Scientist – E made presentation on the issue with specific focus on the menace of the invasive alien species in local and global contexts and provided a comprehensive description of the different kinds of the weeds and extent of their invasion. He covered the entire ambit of the alien invasive species and explained the multifarious losses and imminent threats affected by these species. He also presented forest circle wise data and also gave classified account of the incidence of the different exotic weeds viz. *Ageratum*, *Eupatorium*, *Lantana*, *Parthenium*, with special reference to the state of



Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Ranjeet Kumar categorically emphasized upon research needs including need for assessment of the extent of invasion in different forest types, updating the factors responsible for invasion of the weeds/ invasive alien species, assessing the effect of invasive alien species, prioritisation of interventions, preparing adequate control measures and their use in the fields and monitoring efficiency of the methodologies and restoration of invaded areas in forests.

Once Dr. Ranjeet Kumar finished with his presentation, Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Scientist – G presented a detailed research project titled “Studies on the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on the Forest Health in North-western Himalayas and their Management Strategies”. He introduced the participants on the importance of Invasion of forest weeds in the North-western Himalayas, Objectives of the studies, Methodology to be followed, anticipated outputs, action plan and strategies to developed for the management of Alien species especially *Lantana*.

Out of many forest weeds species, *Lantana* is one of the most important invasive alien plant species in Himalayan ecosystem, he added. Total land area infested by *Lantana* is about 1, 77,000 ha in Himachal Pradesh (HPSFD, 2011). He also elaborated upon the management strategies including



