

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL RESEARCH SEMINAR HELD ON 30.10.2017

Consequent upon the approval of organisation of Institute Level Periodical Research Seminars to further identify and prioritise the research needs for improving the quality of research, the institute in the series organised another monthly periodical seminar on **"Managing forest and forest product for livelihood support and economic growth"** with the theme **"Increase in availability of fodder from the forest and its quality improvement"** given to the team consisting of Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist-F of Silviculture & Tree Improvement and Dr. Swaran Lata, Scientist-C of Agro-forestry & Extension Division. On behalf of the team, Dr. Sandeep Sharma made presentation in the conference hall of HFRI, Shimla on 30.10.2017, which was chaired by Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator of Research. Scientists, Forest officers, Assistant Chief Technical Officers, Research support staff and research scholars in the institute attended this seminar. Members of GIZ German consultants at Shimla and researchers of Himalayan Research Group- an NGO were also invited for the seminar but could not attend the same.

**Speaking on the occasion, Dr. K.S Kapoor, Group Co-ordinator Research**, in the very beginning, threw light on the emerging fodder problems in India and need of research in this area. He also hoped that everyone after the presentation will actively raise their queries and will also give valuable suggestions.

In his presentation, **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist - F** touched various issues regarding fodder scarcity scenario in India, in general and Himachal Pradesh, in particular. General information on the increasing livestock population and their increasing feeding requirements was presented and then focus shifted towards demand & supply and gaps in fodder availability. From the data compiled from different sources (NIANP, Statistical department of Himachal Pradesh, Directorate of Animal Husbandry Himachal Pradesh, IGFRI, FSI Report and India State of Forest Report), gaps pertaining to **fodder & resource** availability were nicely projected. Suggestions were made how this gap in the fodder availability and requirement, which directly affecting the animal's health and ultimately the farm productivity in terms of domestic work, milk, meat, wool etc., can be further reduced. Beside these, the presenter also stressed that the increase in availability of fodder on agricultural lands is difficult due to many reasons viz. non-availability of land, more inputs, increasing population, increasing pressure on land for growing cash crops etc. To overcome the problem of fodder scarcity, stress was given on the utilization of open forests/ fringe forest and village common land. In India, about 29 million hectare area falls under the category of open forests with less than 0.4 canopy density which can be afforested with fodder trees. Besides, most of the forest lands near human habitations are degraded due to unregulated uses and this huge land resource can be utilized for growing fodder trees through the involvement of local communities and forest department through focussed campaign for the development of fodder resources. Information on different important



