

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL MONTHLY SEMINAR

(31<sup>st</sup> July,2019)

In the series of monthly seminars, the Institute organized Seminar on the topic **Biodiversity Conservation, Conventions and Management** under the theme “**Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Security**” on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019 at 4:00 PM in the Conference Hall of the Institute. **Mrs. Shilpa, Assistant Chief Technical Officer**, Forest Ecology & Climate Change Division delivered a talk on the above topic. All the Scientists, Forest Officers, Officers of Technical Services, other technical staff and JRFs, JPFs, PAs and FAs working in various research projects attended the seminar.



**Dr. S.S.Samant, Director, HFRI**, Chaired the proceedings of monthly research seminar. **Dr. R.K. Verma, Scientist G** and Group Coordinator Research (In-charge) welcomed all the participants present in the Conference Hall and explained about the broad structure of the seminar including the content to be adopted and the expected outcome.

**Mrs. Shilpa** made a detailed presentation on “**Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Security**” and specifically focused on the conservation issues and sustenance of the biodiversity. Mrs. Shilpa described the floral and faunal diversity in the state of Himachal Pradesh along with the endemism, threat status and biodiversity losses.



Further, the presenter elaborated upon the conservation of biodiversity by in-situ and ex-situ methods, invasive and alien species affecting the ecological processes and causing loss of biodiversity. Mrs. Shilpa deliberated upon various conventions on Biodiversity, related acts at National and International levels and the strategies. She informed that Himachal Pradesh State Council of Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) has entrusted HFRI, Shimla for preparation of People’s Biodiversity Register of 20 Pnachayats of Shimla district. This endeavour will certainly pave the way towards biodiversity conservation at the Panchayat level, she added.

During the course of presentation, Mrs. Shilpa categorically emphasized upon the relevant research needs on biodiversity and appropriately highlighted the role of the Institute with other research organizations for the development of conservation practices through collaborative research. The speaker presented the future roadmap in this direction in the shape of the formulation of research project on similar lines and evolves strategies for proper networking of the same. She also

highlighted the need for the development of package of practices with specific reference to the assessment of floral wealth and all the related issues and different management practices for biodiversity.

During discussion, issues relevant to the assessment of biodiversity and protected areas were raised by Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, HFRI and Dr. R. K. Verma, Scientist-G, respectively. Their apprehensions were duly replied to best of their satisfaction.

Dr. S. S. Samant elaborated that the biodiversity provides an enormous direct economic benefits, an array of indirect essential services through natural ecosystems to the human kind and accordingly, plays a prominent role in modulating ecosystem functions and stability. Director, HFRI, stressed upon the need to study the unique landscapes and watersheds. He elaborated in detail the concept of Development of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) and constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for protecting the traditional knowledge and sharing benefits with local people. Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist- F, suggested the need of identification, study and conservation of key stone species. Ms. Akanksha Thapa, Project Assistant queried about the heritage sites in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Outcomes of the Seminar**

#### **A. Identification of research needs**

1. Assessment of Plant diversity & development of management strategies for the conservation of the floral wealth, especially in heritage sites, protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, etc.
2. Identification of endemism and threat status of biodiversity for protection/conservation of the species.
3. Development of methodologies for standardizing post harvesting practices especially in the highly valued medicinal plants growing in Himalayan region.
4. Development of ecologically relevant and socially acceptable models for sustainability in the Himalayan region.
5. Preservation of genetic resources both at the species and eco-system levels to manage the fragmentation of habitats.

#### **B. Formulation of future strategies / roadmap**

1. Assessment of Biodiversity Status of different Ecosystems
2. Development of nursery techniques for threatened medicinal plants
3. Strengthen and enhance the knowledge base about importance of biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants and traditional knowledge about plant uses
4. Identification of threat status of floristic diversity
5. Prioritization of potential habitats, communities and important species for conservation and developing conservation strategies

### C. Networking research options identified

Collaboration with Himachal Pradesh State Council of Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) and Research Wing of Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department was suggested

### D. Future research directions discussed for implementation and opportunities for funding

The Institute in collaboration with the identified collaborating agencies needs to prepare mega project on the Heritage site for funding to external agencies.

In the end, the GCR thanked **Dr. S.S. Samant, Director HFRI, Shimla** and Chairman of the Seminar, the presenters and all the participants for their active participation and suggestion for making it successful.

### GLIMPSES OF THE MONTHLY SEMINAR

