

Forests on Slopes Can Mitigate Disasters: Expert

Forest Research Institute (FRI) Director Dr Savita has emphasised the need for developing forests on slopes of hills to mitigate of natural disasters, especially landslides.

Inaugurating the five-day programme on “Role of Forestry Sector in Disaster Risk Management” organised by the Silviculture division of the FRI here in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, Dr Savita said afforestation in sloping areas was important to check landslides as it would check sliding of loose soils. Referring to forest fires, Dr Savita said the forest fire also becomes a major threat to forest wealth of the country and called for adopting effective steps to check forest fires.

Keynote speaker from the National Institute of Disaster Management New Delhi Dr AK Gupta opined that forest officers should also be engaged in mitigation of disasters through forestry activities in their areas.

He also advised FRI Dehradun to organise such training programmes at block and village levels for which funds will be provided by NIDM, New Delhi. Dr AD Kaushik, senior faculty from NIDM, stressed the need for a multi-sector strategy for reducing disasters in the country.

Course director of the training division’s head Kunal Satyarthi told participants about the training contents. In this training, topics such as climate change and disasters, disaster risk management, forest epidemics for disaster management, landslide mitigation practices and meteorological aspects will be deliberated upon by eminent faculties of Forest Research Institute, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, Meteorological Department of Uttarakhand, Forest Survey of India, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, HNB Garhwal University, National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi, ITBP and National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.

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