

FRI SHOULD STUDY ADVANCES IN FORESTRY RESEARCH, SUGGEST EXPERTS

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Dehradun: The Forest Research Institute (FRI) should further take up advances in forestry research, especially those pertaining to advanced genetics, influence of climate change on forest ecosystem and soil organic carbon, nanotechnology, biotechnology, REDD+, impacts of forest fires on flora, fauna and soil. This was among the views expressed by members of a three-member committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change while conducting an academic audit of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and its institutes. It should be mentioned here that the MoEFCC has started conducting the academic audit of all the institutions working under its purview for assessing the quality as well as quantity of activities being undertaken by these organisations. The three member committee for conducting the academic audit of ICFRE and its institutes comprised retired principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) of Madhya Pradesh, Ram Prasad, the retired PCCF of Haryana, Dr JK Rawat and the former vice chancellor of HNB Garhwal University MSM Rawat.

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Academic Audit of ICFRE, FRI by High Level Committee

DEHRADUN, MAY 25 (HINS)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India has started conducting academic audit of all the institutions working under it for assessing the quality as well as quantity of activities undertaken by these organizations.

A three-member committee for conducting the academic audit of ICFRE and its institutes has been constituted with Dr Ram Prasad, Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Madhya Pradesh, Dr JK Rawat, Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Haryana and Former Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and Dr MSM Rawat, Former Vice Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar. Accordingly, the committee visited ICFRE and FRI from May 23 to 25.

The committee reviewed the working and progress of ICFRE on May 23 and deliberated upon reforms necessitated to go along with the global advances in forestry research. The committee also undertook the academic audit and review of the activities being undertaken by FRI from May 24 to 25. All the Heads of various Research Divisions of FRI presented their research work and details about the research projects, before the committee through power point presentations in the Board Room of FRI. During the presentations, the committee members appreciated the re-



search, extension and education work being carried out by the scientists of the FRI. The committee members remarked that the FRI being a pioneer research institute in the country should further take up advances in forestry research especially pertaining to advanced genetics, influence of climate change on

forest ecosystem and soil organic carbon, nanotechnology, biotechnology, REDD+, impacts of forest fires on flora, fauna etc. The committee also realized the constraints of budget and manpower. Committee observed that sufficient funds should be provided to FRI for the maintenance of heritage build-

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ing of FRI, its Museums, Botanical Garden, Bamboosetum and for furthering research and extension work. Committee also suggested that the institute should organize certain awareness programmes for state forest departments on contemporary issues like outbreaks of Salborer, Teak Defoliator and Skel-etonizer, Poplar and Shisham Defoliators.

The members also suggested to extend the research result through training to the various stakeholders with special emphasis on rural communities.

Director, FRI Dr Savita, expressed her gratitude for the committee's visit to FRI and said that the institute has been immensely benefited with the guidance drawn from the rich experience of the academic audit committee members and domain experts. She assured that FRI will also take up research work in the areas suggested by the members so as to meet country's expectations and international standards.

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