

**REPORT ON THE VISIT OF ACADEMIC AUDIT TEAM TO
HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HFRI), SHIMLA
(16th to 18th June 2016)**

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India had earlier decided to carry out the Academic Audit of different institutions under the Ministry including *ICFRE* and its regional Institutes. The responsibility to carry out the academic audit was assigned to a team of experts namely, Dr. Ram Prasad, IFS (Retired), Former PCCF, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. J.K. Rawat, IFS (Retired), Former PCCF, Haryana and Professor MSM Rawat, Ex-Vice Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University.

The Audit team consisting of Dr. Ram Prasad, IFS (Retired) and Professor MSM Rawat visited HFRI, Shimla from 16 to 18 June 2016 for carrying out the academic audit of the Institute. Dr. J.K. Rawar, IFS (Retired), another member of the audit team, could accompany due to some personal reasons.

On 17 June 2016, the audit team visited the Institute. Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Director welcomed the audit team to HFRI, Shimla and gave a detailed power-point presentation about the mandate, objectives, thrust areas, manpower, research programmes and achievements of the Institute. The audit team also raised some queries on some issues of concern, which were duly replied by the Director and the concerned Science in the most effective way.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Ram Prasad, who was heading the audit team, expressed his views about the working of the Institute. He said that however, this is a small Institute of *ICFRE* but he is definitely impressed with the achievements made by the Institute that too with limited scientific manpower and financial resources. He added that, however, the Institute has only two jurisdiction states but the forest cover in both these states is very high as compared to other Institutes. He further added that the terrain here is very tough to visit and to reach these difficult sites is achievement in itself. During discussion, he highlighted some of the important aspects on which HFRI needs special attention. He assured that he will highlight these aspects/ issues in his detailed report, which will be submitted to the Ministry in due course of time. He emphasized the need of technology transfer to the main stakeholders of your research otherwise there is no use of your research findings until and unless, they are used by the stakeholders. He had appreciated the fact that most of the research projects, which were completed by HFRI, are of direct relevance/ benefit of the stakeholders.

At the end, he thanked the Director, HFRI and his team for providing useful information as desired by the team from time-to-time during academic audit. He also thanked the HFRI for providing other hospitalities during their comfortable stay at the Institute.

Some Glimpses of the Activities Held during the Academic Audit



Discussion with the Scientists during HFRI's Presentation



Visit to the Laboratories by the Academic Audit Team





Discussions with the Expert of Academic Audit Team



