

One week DST training programme on “**Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Climate Change: Vulnerabilities and Adaptation Strategies**” is being organized by **Biodiversity Conservation Division under the Directorate of Extension, ICFRE, Dehradun from 09 – 13 December 2013 at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun** and sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, Government of India under the National Programme for training of Scientists and Technologists working in Government Sector. **Shri Vivek Khandekar, Director, Biodiversity Conservation** at ICFRE is the Course-Director of this one week DST Training Programme. Twenty Five participants representing 14 States of India and belongs to various scientific organizations of the country participated in the one week DST Training programme.

At the inauguration of the training programme, chief guest **Dr. G.S. Goraya, Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE**, said that **all** the participants should join hands to ensure biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation throughout the country. He also emphasized on the need of collaborative projects to be carried out in the related field. Acknowledging the important role of forests and their inextricable linkage to human survival in the face of significant impacts of climate change on the capacity of forests to provide ecosystem services, vulnerabilities of forests, biodiversity and their adaptation to changing climate are increasingly getting attention worldwide. In this context of linkages between forest ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change, our Scientists/ Technologists need to be adequately equipped to cope up with these emerging challenges and imbibe new skills and competencies.

Dr. S.P. Singh, DDG (Administration), ICFRE, while welcoming the participants informed that ICFRE is proactive in Forest and Biodiversity related issues at the national and international level and is engaged in the capacity building programmes for the officers, scientists and technologists working in the government sector. He said that biodiversity rich forests are very good source for livelihood and biodiversity conservation programmes must be linked with the climate change. **Shri Saibal Dasgupta, DDG (Extension), ICFRE** though away on tour conveyed his welcome and wishes to all the participants.

Dr. Anita Srivastava, Addl. Director, Biodiversity Conservation at ICFRE has presented the vote of thanks to the august gathering. **Dr. Shilpa Gautam, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Conservation** at ICFRE conducted the Inaugural session.