

COP 23 of UNFCCC, Bonn (Germany)
ICFRE organizes event on Afforestation and REDD+
At India Pavilion (Bonn Zone) COP 23
9 November 2017

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun

In collaboration with:

International Centre for integrated mountain Development (ICIMOD)

German International Cooperation (GIZ)

Department of Forest and Environment, Govt of Meghalaya

TERRE Policy Centre, Pune

An important event on Afforestation and REDD+ in India was organized by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun on 9th November 2017 during the ongoing 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) under the aegis of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany. Forests play a crucial role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Forestry sector in India is making positive contribution for climate change mitigation in India said Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE while chairing the event at India Pavilion. Dr Gairola highlighted various forestry programmes, actions enabling policies, laws and legislations that are contributing to the mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change in Forestry sector In India. Pursuant to Paris Agreement, India in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC has communicated to create an additional Carbon Sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. The land use, land-use change and forestry sector in India is a net carbon sink which offsets about 12% of total GHG emission.

Dr. Savita, Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun presented a case of forestry intervention for rejuvenation of river Ganga under Government of India's flagship Namami Gange programme and underscored how this programme could contribute for climate change mitigation as additional co-benefit. Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, PCCF Meghalaya spoke on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests and Sacred Groves under Community

and Private Ownership of Tribal People in Meghalaya. He highlighted the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation benefits of these community actions.

Prof. Tek Merasani, University of Southern Queensland, Australia spoke on Quality of governance standards for REDD+ especially lessons learned from Nepal and compared with that of PNG. Dr. Bhaskar Singh Karky REDD+ Programme Coordinator from ICIMOD Nepal shared experiences from trans-boundary REDD+ Himalaya project being undertaken in Bhutan, Myanmar, India and Nepal. He highlighted the work done under the project in different partner countries. Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Chief, REDD Implementation Centre, Govt. of Nepal shared the his country's experience of implementing REDD+ in Nepal. Nepal has already developed forest reference level and national REDD+ strategy. At ground level Nepal has also prepared State REDD+ Action Plans (S-RAP). Ms Sabine Preuss from GIZ-India also made presentations on the a newly approved VCS methodology REDD+ developed in India. Dr. Vinita Apte, President, TERRE Policy Centre, Pune, highlighted TERRE initiatives for Afforestation and REDD+ in Pune. Citing a case of Urban Forestry initiative in Mhalunge (Pune) where TERRE has planted – 15000 indigenous trees in 32.68 hectare Waste land.

The 23rd Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (CoP23) or Bonn Climate Change Conference opened in Bonn (Germany) on 6th Nov and will continue until 17 November, under the Presidency of Fiji. The conference is expected to advance work on issues related to operationalizing the Paris Agreement due for completion by 2018. COP 23 is expected to continue its consideration of issues related to the preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun Chaired the session. Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Asstt Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun and Nodal Officer for the event in his welcome remarks introduced the event and the panellists: The event was very well received by the delegates and strengthened leadership role of India in forest and REDD+ in the region.

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