

**Sub: - Panel discussion on “Prospects and Challenges of forest based livelihoods for tribal and local communities in India organized by UNDP”.**

Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE was invited as an expert panel for the side event on Prospects and Challenges of forest based livelihoods for tribal and local communities in India organized by UNDP during the COP – 11, Convention on Biological Diversity on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at Hyderabad. The side event highlighted the successful cases from both Civil Society and Government drawing lessons around what works on the ground for these extremely vulnerable communities living in fragile eco-system. The side event also focused on how modern science and technology coupled with community institution development around access could support rejuvenation of ancient traditional livelihood practices. The event covered interesting success stories around Tasar Sericulture, Lac rearing, Siali leaf-plants, Gum-Karaya, medicinal herbs and plants and other Non-timber forest produce. Mr. Srinivasan Iyer, from UNDP Introduced the event & welcomed the audience, panel & presenters.

During the side event the following presentation were given which are enumerated below:

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>ANCHOR</b>
Overview of NTFP in the context of biodiversity and live hoods; production, access and marketing aspects.	Dr. N. C. Saxena
Short film on Tasar Sericulture activity	PRADAN
Presentation on prospects & challenges in Tasar Sericulture	Mr. Md. Shamshad Alam, PRADAN
Presentation on prospects & challenges in Medicinal Plants	Mr. Uttakorsh ghate
Presentation on prospects & challenges in Gum karaya	Mr. V. Krishna Rao, Kovel Foundation

Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE while summarizing the session as an expert panellist, stressed the need for food and water security by focusing on 32 million hectares of forest fringe areas. He mentioned that the ground water is depleting in Haryana and Punjab due to over withdrawal of water leading to depletion of ground water table which may ultimately lead to food and water peril in these states. He emphasised that to overcome the problem the answer lies in management of 85 million hectares of rain fed agriculture areas including 32 million hectares forest fringe areas which supports the livelihoods of nearly 300 million people.

DG, ICFRE also emphasised that forest departments should stress on management of NTFPS through technological improvement and capacity building of various stakeholders. He also stressed the need for further Research and Development (R& D) for NTFP management wherein the role of the ICFRE becomes paramount.