

Planning Commission Team Visits ICFRE

A team of Planning Commission consisting of Mr. Ranjan Chatterjee, Senior Advisor and Dr. Biswajeet Banerjee, Director (Forestry) visited ICFRE and held an interactive meeting with the senior officials and scientists of ICFRE and FRI on 19th January. Welcoming the Planning Commission team, Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG ICFRE briefed them about the ongoing research activities of ICFRE and the new initiatives undertaken. A presentation was also made highlighting the functioning and significant achievements of the Council. Dr. V. K. Bahuguna emphasised that while the budget of ICFRE has remained almost static for the last few years, the expenditure on salary has increased significantly after implementation of the 6th Pay Commission recommendation leaving only a meagre amount for research activities. The DG highlighted release of superior quality clones of different species to farmers to address their livelihood issues and apprised the team about the success of the Planning Commission funded project to encourage Community Participation in Bihar and proposed to take up the Phase – II of the project. He also intimated that ICFRE planned to take up a project especially for bamboos. Dr. Bahuguna also apprised the Planning Commission team that South Asia Network of Forestry Research Institutes needs to be operationalised for which initial seed money is required. Mr. Ranjan Chatterjee and Dr. Biswajeet Banerjee while assuring full support to ICFRE from the Planning Commission suggested that the success of the Bihar project should be replicated in other areas for which projects can be submitted to the Planning Commission. Mr. Chatterjee further emphasised that we should make the forest management people centric and more efforts should be made for transfer of the technology from lab to the land as the extension activities are grossly lacking. He also suggested that some basic quality standards are required to be developed for the benefit of the consumers and stakeholders and ICFRE should develop a matrix of research quality for higher and higher achievements. Mr. Chatterjee highly appreciated the wonderful blend of forest officers and scientists in the Council and suggested that redeployment of the human resource should be resorted to as per the priorities. The ICFRE should also help the forest departments of various state forest departments to employ information technology to a greater extent in the forest management, he added. While appreciating the contributions of ICFRE in forestry education, he suggested that ICFRE should keep a track of the placements of its students and that students from all over the country should be encouraged by way of organising an array of competitions at national level which does not require much funds. Mr. Chatterjee while appreciating the new initiatives of ICFRE suggested that studies for assessing the impact of new policy initiatives should also be taken up. Mr. Chatterjee assured that if four or five good projects are submitted, Planning Commission can help in the funding of the same. A team of Planning Commission consisting of Mr. Ranjan Chatterjee, Senior Advisor and Dr. Biswajeet Banerjee, Director (Forestry) also visited research divisions & Museums of the Forest Research Institute.