

**SIDE EVENT
@COP14 OF UNCCD**

Restoration of Degraded Forest Lands and Combating Desertification

Date: Friday, 13 September 2019

**Venue: MET 10, Hall 3, Ground Floor, India Expo Centre and Mart,
Greater Noida, Delhi NCR**

Time: 13.00-15.00 hrs.

Organiser:

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)

Dehradun, India



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



About the Event

India is the seventh largest country in the world having total geographic area of 328.73 Mha, which occupies only 2.4 per cent of the world's geographical area but supports over 17 per cent of the human and 18 per cent of the cattle world's population. An ever increasing human and cattle population have enormous demands on land resources. These pressures have led to drastic changes in the proportion of land utilized for agricultural activities, urbanization and industrial development. Human and animal pressure on land, over-exploitation of soil and water resources, unscientific land use, natural calamities like drought and floods are major factors responsible for land degradation. About 32.07 per cent of the land is undergoing various forms of degradation and about 25 per cent of the geographical area is affected by desertification. Land degradation as a major concern in India is reflected in its commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality target by 2030 as a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The management tools and systems developed by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) continued to be the basis for forest management in India as well as in South-East Asia. Some of the landmark contributions for sustainable management of forests are site-specific agroforestry models, volume tables, yield tables, Working Plan Code-2014 and developed techniques & models for

restoration of degraded forest lands, and release of varieties of forestry tree species for productivity enhancement.

ICFRE through its nine institutes and five research centers is addressing issue of restoration of degraded forest lands by developing suitable restoration models and environment management plans. Its institutes made significant contribution in developing restoration models for mined out areas (limestone, coal and rock phosphate), sodic soil, sand dune stabilization and rehabilitation of saline land. ICFRE institute at Shimla is engaged in documentation of biodiversity of cold desert areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. It has standardized the nursery and planting techniques of dominant multipurpose indigenous plant species of cold deserts such as Seabuckthorn, Russian Olive, Himalayan Pencil Cedar and Wild Rose etc.

The side event on 'Restoration of degraded forest lands and combating desertification' in COP 14 of UNCCD is being organized with the objective to share the best practices/models developed by ICFRE institutes on restoration of degraded forest lands and to combat desertification. ICFRE research support will be helpful in achieving the land degradation neutrality targets by 2030. During the side event distinguished resource persons will present their experiences on restoration of degraded forest lands and to combat desertification.

Schedule of the Event

S.N.	Topic	Resource Person	Time Allotted Minutes
1.	Opening Remarks	Mr. Siddhanta Das Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India	10
2.	Overview of Forest Land Restoration in India	Dr. Suresh Gairola Director General, ICFRE	10
3.	ICFRE Initiatives in Restoring Degraded Forest Lands	Mr. N. Bala Scientist, FRI, Dehradun	15
4.	Cold Deserts: Measures Taken to Combat Desertification	Dr. Vaneet Jishtu Scientist, HFRI, Shimla	15
5.	Combating India's Desertification: New Challenges and Scope for Alternate Strategies	Dr. P.C.Moharana ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur	15
6.	Restoration of Land Degraded due to Shifting Cultivation	Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj Director, RFRI, Jorhat	15
7.	Biotechnological Interventions for Securing Land Productivity and Combating Land Degradation	Dr. Tarun Kant Scientist, AFRI, Jodhpur	15
8.	Discussion Session	Resource Persons and Participants	10
9.	Concluding Remarks	Chair and Co-Chair	10
10.	Way Forward and Vote of Thanks	Mr. S.D. Sharma Dy. Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun	05

Nodal Officer:

Mr. S.D. Sharma, IFS, Deputy Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun

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