

A report of Training
on
Advances in Agroforestry
Organized by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun
on 7th to 9th March, 2019
at SFRI, Ladhawal, Ludhiana (Punjab)

The imbalance between demand and supply of forest products has created a great pressure on natural forests. To reduce the gap, there is need to expand the land under tree cover by way of plantations and other afforestation works. In such situations agroforestry is one of the viable options to increase the area under tree cover. Nowadays agroforestry is becoming an integral part of farmland to enhance productivity of farmland and livelihood improvement of farmers and other communities living in rural areas. Different agroforestry models have been developed by the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and scientific knowledge and economic feasibility of these models need to be disseminated to farmers, frontline staff of State Forest Departments and other stakeholders.

Keeping in view the above, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun organized a three days training programme on “Advances in Agro forestry” for Frontline staff of state forest department, farmers, students, NGOs and other stake holders from 07th to 9th March 2019 at State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), Ladhawal, Ludhiana (Punjab). The training was inaugurated by Mr. Daljeet Singh, DFO, Extension Division, SFRI, Ladhawal, Ludhiana (Punjab). In the inaugural address Shri Daljeet Singh, DFO, Extension, Phillaur told that the farmers of Punjab are progressive and ready to adopt Agroforestry models/practices in their field. At present they are facing problems in marketing of their produce. He opined that this training will provide very useful information to them to solve their problems. Dr. A.K. Pandey, Head, Extension Division, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun welcomed the guest and the participants and given a brief account on the training programme. He said that progressive farmers of Punjab has already adopted agroforestry but lot more need to done for adoption of newer agroforestry models based on *Melia dubia*. The marketing issues of agroforestry grown timber would be sorted out shortly as many new industries are coming in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. On this occasion the Professor, S.K. Chauhan, PAU, Ludhiana was also present and he stated that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agroforestry produces need to be announced by the government so the farmers get benefited and adoption of agroforestry practices will

be enhanced. He also emphasized that the balanced marketing of wood based factories and farmers both may get benefitted.

In this training programme, about 50 participants from different part of the Punjab including farmers, forest officials of Punjab state and students of Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana were participated. The lectures on following topics were delivered by subject specialists during the technical sessions of the training:

- Agroforestry Practices of Punjab with special reference to medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Agroforestry-Myth and realities.
- Role of agroforestry an important livelihood options in Punjab.
- Suitable soils and agroforestry models for Punjab.
- Collection of quality seeds of agroforestry tree species.
- Marketing of agroforestry produces.
- *Melia dubia* based agroforestry
- Insect pest of important agroforestry species and their management.
- Disease of agroforestry species and their management.
- Development of agroforestry models in wasteland

A field visits to Noorpur bet (Ludhiana) was organized where progressive farmers developed very good and suitable agroforestry models in their field. The trainees showed great interest and interacted with the farmers. The trainees were also taken to the Herbal garden of PAU, Ludhiana to have first hand information on medicinal and aromatic plants which can be grown in Punjab. In valedictory session, certificates were distributed to the participants. Participants thanked FRI, Dehradun for organizing such important and useful training programme at SFRI, Ludhiana. They suggested that such type of more training programmes should be conducted at regular intervals at their place.

Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist, Extension Division, FRI, Dehradun anchored the training programme. Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist Extension Division, FRI, Dehradun proposed vote of thanks to the participants and other dignitaries. On this occasion Shri Vijay Kumar, ACF and Shri Ajay Gulati of Extension Division, FRI, Dehradun were also present and made efforts for successful conduct of the training programme.

Glimpses of Events



Inauguration of training programme



Lightening of Lamp



Dr. A.K. Pandey, Head, Extension Division, FRI, Dehradun interacting with the participants



Participants of training



Professor of PAU, Ludhiana interacting with the participants



Field visit at Farmers field and Harbal garden



Certificates distribution to the participants



A group photo of the training programme