## IFRIS at a Glance

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<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Stage I</td>
<td>Conceptualization (07(^{th}) June 2006 to 31(^{st}) January 2007)</td>
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<td>Stage II</td>
<td>Project Development including Business Process Re-engineering (15(^{th}) March 2007 to 31(^{st}) August 2007)</td>
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| Stage III| Software Development and Implementation (January 2008)  
Pilot Rollout: October 2008  
System Go: Live: March 2009 |
About e-parivartan

This newsletter “ICFRE e-parivartan” aims to cover the e-governance developments leading to transformation of ICFRE from manual to the electronic environment at ICFRE, its institute / research centers located in different geographical region across the country. The newsletter is a monthly publication for limited circulation (intra-ICFRE and its stakeholders) to increase the awareness of the IFRIS Project. e-parivartan will be a forum for sharing the views of the Management, the e-champions, users and the developers of the system. Your valuable feedback and inputs on the subject are solicited!

Change Agents (the e-champions)

The change management being one of the key factor in successful implementation of IFRIS and in order to mitigate such issues the first e-champion training was conducted from 21st to 25th April’08 in ICFRE Dehradun. The inauguration session was chaired by Dr. Rabindra Kumar, DDG (Extn.) and Co-chaired by Shri Sandeep Tripathi, ADG (Admin.) had a participation of all the senior Officer/Scientists at ICFRE and FRI. Presentations giving the background of e-governance initiatives of ICFRE and significant role of e-champions were made in this session. This was followed by technical sessions wherein the discussions / presentation on various modules of IFRIS were made and voluntary suggestions from the e-champions were obtained for forming different groups on Research, Extension, Payroll and PIS, Finance, Procurement and Inventory. A common mail-group of e-champions was a welcome step to facilitate discussions, exchange of thoughts and other material.

The e-champions were asked to make a presentation on their post training action plan for next two months, their expectation and concerns.

The concluding session was held on (25.04.2008) wherein interaction with the e-champions about their understanding of envisaged IFRIS and immediate post training action plan was decided. The programme was concluded with a healthy interaction between Shri A.K. Wahal, DDG (Edu.), Dr. G.S. Rawat, DDG (Res.), Shri Sandeep Tripathi, ADG (Admin.) and the e-champions and subsequently the certificates were awarded to the participants.

The second e-champion workshop would be conducted in IWST Bangalore during 16th to 20th June 08. Attempt is being made to give e-champions an exposure to Research, Extension and Finance Modules of proposed IFRIS application. The details would followup in the next edition of e-Parivartan.

1st Apex Review during Development of IFRIS.

Apex Committee Meeting was held on 12.05.2008 and the outpost members, i.e., Directors of IWST/ IFGTB/ AFRI/ TFRI/ HFRI/ RFRI also participated in the meeting through video conferencing from respective institutes.

As the meeting took off, the DG, ICFRE released the first issue of ICFRE e-parivartan (April 2008) newsletter

The committee reviewed and approved the Software Requirement Specification (SRS) with certain modifications. The summary of meetings of Institute Apex Committees were also perused by the committee and certain approvals were granted viz.: Propagation of TO BE processes, IT Training, Research Management Training, extension of LAN as per requirements and provisioning of Laptops to e-champions with prior approval of the competent authority. The committee also
perused the recommendations of ICFRE Technical Committee (IT Experts) wherein it recommended the incorporation of concept of digital signatures in the phase II of the projects.

While perusing / briefing of 1st e-champion’s training (21st April–25th April ‘08) the committee appreciated participation of all the e-champions and the efforts put in for organizing the e-champions’ training. SRIT and PMC were advised to select modules from Research, Extension and one from Administration (preferable Finance or Personal Information or Grants to Universities) for early pilot launch in IWST.

**Video Conferencing @ ICFRE and Institutes**

The 05th day of May 2008 was a leading milestone for ICFRE and its institutes when the first Video Conferencing session was conducted between ICFRE HQ and IWST Bangalore-session continued for more than 3 hours. The VC facility is proving to be a boon for e-governance developments at ICFRE and its Institutes. The facility is being used by officials to eliminate geographical distances and take active participation in trainings and workshops conducted across institutes.

**Project Institutional Framework**

The committee meetings under the project institutional framework of IFRIS were conducted for e-governance awareness and IT preparedness at institutes and ICFRE Hqtrs.

**e-governance awareness workshop**

Two awareness workshop were conducted at IFP, Ranchi (22-23rd May 2008) and AFRI Jodhpur (8th May 2008). The outcome of the workshops have been encouraging and the IFRIS is gaining acceptability.
Kudos from
Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, (Government of India), New Delhi.

I think he was right and what he said made lot of sense to me. I believe Forestry is one of such sectors where ICT interventions can bring lot of change in the present scenario and consequently benefit – effort ratio could be very high. So all my best wishes are with you. Just see whether you can slowly broaden the scope to include broad area of Forestry as a whole, not getting confined to Research in Forestry only. Keep an eye on the ICT Interventions being taken in the Central Line Ministry / Department.

Ashis Sanyal
Senior Director,
E-Governance Programme Management Unit (EGPMU)

The effort put in by the ICFRE officials is really commendable and the response at every level was tremendous which led to timely completion of project. It would be pertinent to highlight that this is a first of its kind initiative in a Research Institution in India and this may serve as a Model Implementation for other research Institutes to replicate.

S.R. Das
Senior Director, E-Governance

The next edition of ICFRE e-parivartan solicits your views on the process of change envisaged by the institution.

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in media ➔
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ICFRE installs Video Conferencing facilities
By OUR STAFF REPORTER
DEHRADUN, 5 May: Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), added one more feather to its cap by taking a historical e-governance initiative by starting its newly installed Video Conferencing (VC) facilities connecting 8 institutes located all over the country. A first formal video conferencing between ICFRE Head Quarters, here, and its Institutes situated at Bangalore, Jabalpur and Jodhpur was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

The VC was held under the Chairmanship of Jagdish Kishan, Director General, ICFRE during which a healthy discussion on the research projects and their status was held by the Scientists at the respective institutes.

AS Wahal, DDG (Education), Dr GS Rawat DDG (Research), MS Gargyal, DDG (Admin), Dr Shashi Kumar, Director (Research) and Ramendra Kumar, DDG (Extension), and others participated in the conference from Dehradun, and SC Gairola, Director, IWST, Bangalore, Dr KV Rao, Scientist F, IWST, Bangalore, RL Srivastava, Director, AFRE, Jodhpur and Jashkar Singh from ICFRE, Jodhpur were present on the remote end.

The introduction of VC in the fore-going session, the only one of its kind initiative taken by the ICFRE, will certainly help in improving and strengthening the research activities and capacity building for it and ensure better services towards its stakeholders.

The e-governance initiative taken by the ICFRE since 2006 have started taking shape and the Video Conferencing was the first deductible. The second deficient will be in the form of an enterprise level secured web portal which shall lead the organisation through different stages in improving efficiency and transparency in the whole system. The pilot of this software shall be implemented in October 2008 and the system shall finally roll out in March 2009.

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