

Specialized HRD Training Course on

Forest Certification

26-30 Aug 2013

at

IIFM, Bhopal

Programme Director: Prof. Manmohan Yadav

IIFM conducted five days Training on Specialized HRD Training Course on 'Forest Certification' during August 26-30, 2013. Ten Scientists from the ICFRE institution spread across the country viz. FRI, AFRI, HFRI, RFRI, TFRI, IWST and IFGTB were participated in the program. While inaugurating the training Shri RS Negi, PCCF Madhya Pradesh emphasized that the standardization and certification is the need of the hour for forestry products in India. Internationally our forestry products stand to lose due to lack of standardization and adjunct certification. Dr GA Kinhal, Director IIFM stressed on solutions and practice of sustainable forest management which leading to forest certification. Prof. Manmohan Yadav, Program Director briefed about the development in the area of forest certification globally.



The subject experts invited for the training were from the veteran forest officers; industrialists and academicians. Sessions were organized to accommodate the mandate given by the ICFRE. The deliberations were on the emerging issues of Sustainable Forest Management, the advancement in the area of SFM and Forest Certification that supports responsible forestry practices. A session devoted on technological approach for SFM was delivered by Shri KK Jha in which the enhancement of forest productivity through technology was emphasized. In order to share first hand experience in forest certification, Chain-of-custody certification and Controlled wood Auditing sessions were organized by the experts from the Certification Body i.e. SCS and BILT, who has undertaken forest certification in Orissa with Agriculture Co-Operative. The sessions were organized for actual cost and procedure for initiating forest certification.

A group exercise for developing understanding various issues in the area of



Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certifications were given to participating scientist.

A panel discussion on Need for Forest Certification in India including Group Certification and Fair Trade Certification was conducted. The panel discussion was Chaired by Dr. Ram Prasad, Former Director, IIFM; Shri RR Okhandiar, CCF, Indore; Shri Shahbaz Ahmed, Faculty IIFM and Programme Director Prof. Manmohan Yadav were participated in the session along with the ICFRE Scientists.

In the panel discussion Dr. Ram Prasad said that the scientists should look for avenues in Forest Certification like Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). He was in the opinion that the scientists may lead to become the auditors in forest certification. Shri Shahbaz Ahmed express his concern on the huge cost incurred in getting the forest certification



specially how the small enterprises may arrange for the certification cost. The point has been well taken and Dr PK Kaushik, one of the participant suggested that there is a need for a facilitator agency/institution, who can promote the forest certification. Shri RR Okhandiar informed, based on his observations that the certified product may fetch 30% premium price in the market. The valedictory session was Chaired by Shri Anil Oberoi, MD, MP MFP Federation while Dr. GA Kinhal, Director, IIFM presided over the function. He stressed that the Forest Certification is need of the hour. Vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Manmohan Yadav.

