

A Report On

ICFRE's AFRI-TFRI Joint Regional Research Conference 2020
'FORESTRY RESEARCH IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA'
Organized, Coordinated and Web-hosted by AFRI, Jodhpur
on 25th August 2020

The ever first an online regional research conference RRC on 'Forestry research in western and central India' was jointly organized by Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur and Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur and was



hosted at AFRI, Jodhpur on 25th August 2020. Chief Guest of the inaugural function was Sh. A.S. Rawat IFS, D.G., ICFRE. At the onset of the e-conference,



Sh. M. R. Baloch, Director AFRI welcomed the delegates and the participants. Sh. S.D. Sharma, DDG (Research) addressed the e-gathering by talking about the objectives of RRC as well as



different

activities going on at ICFRE level. Guests of honour Sh. N.K. Vasu (Ex PCCF & HoFF and Former Director of AFRI) and Dr. G.V. Reddy, PCCF and HoFF, Rajasthan Forest Departments also addressed the participant of this e-conference.

Subsequently, five pamphlets, one booklet and one volume of AFRI Darpan was released by the

Guest of the inaugural function Sh. A.S. Rawat, D.G., ICFRE followed by his address to the e-gathering and launched the e-conference. This session was ended with vote of thank by Dr. Tarun Kant, HoD, Extension Division, AFRI. A total number of more than hundred participants were connected with this e-conference.

After inaugural session, five technical sessions commenced. The first technical session was chaired by Sh. N.K. Vasu, Ex PCCF & HoFF and Former Director AFRI and Co-chaired by Sh. M.L. Meena, PCCF, Working Plan & Van-bandobast, Rajasthan Forest Department. There were 7 presentation involving AFRI and CAZRI, Jodhpur, TFRI, Jabalpur, and Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu (UT) on the overviews of the institute's research works and findings and states research works and research problems. One more presentation was by ICFRE, Dehradun on 'Combating Land Degradation – National Perspective'.



The second Session was an interactive session chaired by Sh. S.D. Sharma, DDG (Research), ICFRE, Dehradun and Co-chaired by Dr. G. Singh, Group Coordinator (R), AFRI. In this, presenters involving progressive farmers, NGOs, University Profesors, Retired Forest Officers and Scientists gave their valuable suggestions for focussing research on farmers welfare and livelihoods through agroforestry, sandalwood cultivation etc. Around 08 nos. of various field stakeholders put-up their views.

Session third comprises of brainstorming on important thrust areas of forestry research with major emphasis on dry lands. This session was chaired by Sh. M.L. Meena, PCCF, Working Plan & Van-bandobast, Rajasthan Forest Department. A brief presentations were made on the thrust areas (i) Managing Forest and Forest Products for Livelihood Support and Economic Growth, (ii) Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Security, (iii) Forest and Climate Change, (iv) Forest Genetic Resource management and Tree Improvement, (v) Forestry Research Extension, and (vi) Land Degradation and Desertification.



Technical session IV was chaired by Sh. M.R. Baloch, Director, AFRI, Jodhpur and co-chaired by Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, Director, TFRI, Jabalpur. In this session, focused research areas were framed out and identified for forestry research planning for western and central India, based on the presentations and discussions in the previous three sessions.

The last technical session V was concluding session of this online RRC and was chaired by Sh. A.S. Rawat, Director General, ICFRE. In this DG, ICFRE apprised the presentations and discussion held earlier and the forestry research needs identified. He also suggested for doing focussed research keeping in mind the human welfare in centre. He also appreciated AFRI team for successfully organizing ever first e-RRC amid Covid-19 crisis.



All participants who could not interact during RRC were requested by Sh. M.R. Baloch IFS, Director AFRI to send their suggestions, if any through WA or e-mail for incorporating in the final minutes.

The e-conference was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. G. Singh, GCR, AFRI.

