

COMPULSORY TRAINING OF IFS OFFICERS AT RFRI, JORHAT

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted week-long compulsory training course on ‘*Bamboo Resource Development for addressing Livelihood Concerns of Communities*’ for officers of Indian Forest Service during 25 to 29 November, 2019. Twenty one Forest Officers from 15 States, many of them are serving as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, and Deputy Conservator of Forests in different States, participated in the programme. Few of them are also serving in various capacities in other Ministries/Departments of Government of India/ State Governments.

The training consisted of theoretical sessions mainly focusing on the bamboo resources of the country, bamboo design, traditional value chain of bamboos, and the modern value chain. The training included field trip to Majuli to show the bamboo handicraft, particularly *Mukha Shilpa* of *Samaguri Satra*. Another field trip was made to Kaziranga to know about the bamboo cluster activities in and around the National Park and involvement of Eco Development Committees.

The Training programme was inaugurated by Dr. G. Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat (Assam). Speaking on the occasion as Guest of Honour of the inaugural session, Shri Ajay Kumar, IFS, APCCF (Audit & Non-Plan), Uttar Pradesh stated bamboo as ‘Green Gold’ of the country. Bamboo is an important bio-resource for combating global warming and climate change being an efficient carbon sequester. Mentioning various activities of National Bamboo Mission of India, he expected positive growth of bamboo sector which can be achieved adopting with modern technology and skill for cultivation and utilization bamboo to maximum level for strengthen the nation’s economy. He shared his experience of National Bamboo Mission to the august gathering with respect to bamboo cultivation which is a labour intensive than that of other crops. Only healthy and productive bamboo farming can enhance the economic development of the society.

Another Guest of Honour, Shri Anil Kumar Maurya, IFS, PCCF & Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh described that state forest departments may require to recognize the importance of tree outside the forest (TOF). Bamboo is a major component of TOF which can make real impact to the nation's economy. Bamboo has less gestation period and could be harvested within few years. Government of India also amended forest rule and bamboo enlisted as crops of tree outside the forest (TOF). National Bamboo Mission has lots of responsibility to boost the productivity of bamboo and livelihood development.

By delivering welcome address, Dr. R. K. Borah, officiating Director, mentioned that bamboo is an important resource for green economy and climate change. .

Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, consultant, CBTC, Guwahati delivered first presentation on 'Bamboo Sector in India with special reference to propagation, cultivation and management'. He described the world distribution of bamboo and focused on bamboo sector of India. The Participants visited RFRI Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, Germplasm Collection and Bamboo Composite Centre (BCC). Shri R. K. Kalita led the team to the field. Shri Kumud Bora guided the team at the Bambusetum. He demonstrated different propagation methods of bamboo. The participants visited BCC where they witnessed the utilization and value addition of bamboo. Dr. Runumee D. Borthakur showed various preservation methods and charcoal making processes. The Trainees appreciated the efforts of RFRI in the sphere of bamboo handcrafts making for livelihood generation.

On the second day, field visit was planned to Majuli to give an exposure to the Trainees on cultural heritage of Assam, particularly Satra culture. Shri R. K. Kalita led the team to Majuli. Shri S. K. Thakuria, DFO, Majuli welcomed the participants and delivered a presentation on Majuli.

The Participants visited *Samaguri Satra* and witnessed the traditional musk making art i.e. *Mukha Shilpa* which is of international repute.

Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Das, Scientist 'E' of the Institute delivered a presentation on 'Bamboo Resource Mapping'. Dr. M. K. Sarma, Professor, Biswanath College of Agriculture (AAU), Biswanath Chariali, Assam delivered presentation on 'Bamboo as important

component of Agroforestry’. Shri Rajib Kr. Kalita presented on the research and development activities of RFRI on bamboo. Shri Priyam B. Goswami, Architect delivered presentation on ‘Bamboo in structural construction’. A Cultural Extravaganza showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Assam and North East was organized in the evening where artists performed *Borgeet*, *Satriya* Dance, *Dandiya* Dance, Vocal, Modern Dance, Orchestra (Violin), *Bihu* Dance and Performance by *Panchajanya Sur Vahini* on Folk Culture of Assam and North East.

Daylong Field Trip was organized to visit to Kaziranga area including Biodiversity Park. The field trip was led by Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director. Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS, Field Director, Kaziranga National Park delivered a presentation on different conservation activities of KNP and its challenges.

Shri Pranjal Kumar Goswami, an entrepreneur from Gouri Food Processing, Guwahati gave an attractive presentation on ‘Commercial prospect of Bamboo Shoot’. Shri Saurabh Saikia, ESES Bio Wealth Pvt. Ltd, Jagiroad, Morigaon (Assam) delivered presentation on ‘Bamboo Wood: Moving towards a Sustainable Future’. He described the production of different kinds of bamboo wood by his industrial unit. Two young entrepreneurs, Md. Sagir Ahmed, Lichubari, Jorhat and Shri Abinash Hazarika, Panchajanya Kutir Udyug, Teok, Jorhat were introduced to the Participants. Both budding entrepreneurs shared their experience and explained about their success stories. They apprised about the support and help received from RFRI, Jorhat particularly on skill development and capacity building.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Shri R. M. Dobryal, APCCF, Telengana. Each Participant expressed the wonderful arrangement of the entire training programme and utmost hospitality along with excellent exposure to the rich cultural heritage of Assam. The trainees expressed deep sense of gratitude to entire RFRI family.

Certificates and mementos were distributed to the Participants.

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INAUGURAL SESSION



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GROUP PHOTOS



TECHNICAL SESSION



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VISIT TO RFRI BAMBUSETUM, NURSERY AND BAMBOO COMPOSITE CENTRE



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FIELD VISIT TO MAJULI: WELCOMING TRAINEES BY DFO, MAJULI





VISIT TO SAMAGURI SATRA: WITNESSING MUKHA SHILPA





VISIT TO DAKHINPAT SATRA: INTERACTION WITH SATRADHIKAR



TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA: SHOWCASING RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ASSAM/NER



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FIELD VISIT TO KAZIRANGA





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TECHNICAL AND INTERACTION SESSIONS



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VALEDICTORY SESSION



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