



# ICFRE Climate News

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## News from ICFRE

### Forests and Climate Change Division

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

P.O. New Forest  
Dehradun—248 006  
India

### Inside this issue:

News from ICFRE	1
Lecture Delivered	5
Media Reporting	6
Past Events	7
Upcoming Events	8
Relevant Publications	9

**REDD+ Pilot Project for Uttarakhand:** Uttarakhand Forest Department has sanctioned a project entitled “REDD Plus Pilot Project in the *Van Panchayat* (Village Community Forests) of Uttarakhand” with a budget of Rs. 86.98Lakh for three years on 12 July 2012. The overall objectives of the project will be to develop an ideal pilot projects for demonstration of REDD plus actions in the selected cluster of *Van Panchayats* and Joint Forest Management areas of Uttarakhand with active involvement of local communities.

**Participation of ICFRE Delegation in Workshop on “Profiling for Regional Learning on REDD+ in South Asia”:** The workshop was held at ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal from 24th – 27th July 2012. Around 60 participants from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, and China participated in the workshop.

ICFRE delegation was represented by Sh. M.P. Singh, Head, Climate Change and Forest Influence Division, FRI; Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (Forests and Climate Change), ICFRE and Sh. V.R.S. Rawat, Add. Director, Forests and Climate Change Division, ICFRE.

ICFRE delegation contributed in following sessions of the workshop:

- ◇ Country presentation on REDD+ in India by Dr. T.P. Singh
- ◇ Chairing the session on Technical Methodology by Dr. T.P. Singh
- ◇ Group presentations on REDD+ Financing by Sh. M.P. Singh
- ◇ Group presentations on REDD+ Methodology by Sh. V.R.S. Rawat



◇ Panel discussion on *International Negotiations* by Sh. V.R.S. Rawat

All the inputs given by ICFRE were greatly appreciated by the hosts and the workshop participants from different countries including those from India.



### **US AID/USFS Delegation Visit to ICFRE on 9th August 2012:**

A delegation of US AID and US Forest Service (USFS) visited ICFRE on 9 August 2012 to discuss the collaborative programmer of mutual interest on Forests and Climate Change and Biodiversity. The US delegation was led by Dr. Dale Boseworth from US Forest Service, other delegation members included Mr. Allan Mustard, Minister Counselor for Agriculture Affairs at US Embassy New Delhi, Ms. Sasha Gottlieb and Mr. Valdis Mezainis from US Forest Service and Dr. Vergees Paul from US AID.

Welcoming the US Delegation, Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE said that although 95 % forests in India are government owned there is heavy dependence of people on forests. About 300 million people in India depend on forests for their livelihood. More than 170,000 villages are situated in forest fringes covering around 32 million ha of forest land out of which 16 million ha are protected areas like national parks, sanctuaries. Dr. Bahuguna introduced the thrust areas of research of ICFRE that includes: models for sustaining livelihood, helping farmers with superior clones, genetics and tree improvement, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change.

Dr. Bahuguna emphasized that the whole idea is to bring people to the centre for Climate Change mitigation and Adaptation measures. Dr. Bahuguna further informed the US delegation that ICFRE has developed an All India Coordinated Programme of Climate Change which is directly linking with the masses.



On REDD plus ICFRE has initiated REDD plus project in the state of Uttarakhand with the financial support from Uttarakhand Forest Department and further planning to start REDD plus projects in the state of Gujarat and Sikkim.



Dr. Vegeesh Paul from US AID informed that US AID Programme has developed a Forest Plus programme for India where main thrust is to strengthen India's capacity for REDD plus. He further elaborated that Forest Plus consists of silviculture management and carbon sequestration, multiple value of forest ecosystems, strengthening carbon inventory methodology, institutional framework for financial mechanism, institutional capacity of communities, capacity building and exchange programmes.



It was decided that US AID and ICFRE will work for further collaboration for innovation in the areas of ecosystem services, biodiversity, forest fire, forest hydrology and climate change and its modeling.



### **Release of Guidebook on CDM Afforestation and Reforestation Projects**

**in India:** Forests and Climate Change Division, ICFRE has published a Guidebook on CDM Afforestation and Reforestation Projects in India under the University of Tuscia, Italy funded collaborative project entitled "Measurement of Forest Carbon Exchange Using Eddy Covariance and CDM Potential Studies in India. The book has been authored by Shri Sandeep Tripathi, Dr. T.P. Singh, Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Dr. Rajiv Pande and Dr. R.S. Rawat. The book has been released by the Sh. R.K. Goyal, Director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy on 15 August 2012. Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE, Dr. P.P. Bhojvaid, Director, FRI and Dr. T.P. Singh, Assistant Director General (Forests and Climate Change) were present on the occasion.



### **Participation of Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (FCC), ICFRE in Consultation Workshop of Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC:**

Dr. T. P. Singh, Assistant Director General (Forests and Climate Change), ICFRE has participated in Consultation Workshop of Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC at New Delhi on 13-14 September 2012.

### **REDD+ workshop in Gujarat:**

A two days interactive workshop on REDD+ was organized by Climate Change Department of Government of Gujarat in collaboration with ICFRE, Dehradun on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Gandhi Nagar Gujarat. Sh. Pradeep Khanna, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat was the Chief Guest for the occasion. The workshop was attended by field officer from Gujarat Forest Department., Climate Change Department. GEER Foundation, Gujarat Energy Development Agency and prominent NGO's workshop in the area of Forest and Climate Change.

Dr. T.P. Singh, Assistant Director General (Climate Change), ICFRE has presented a position paper on "REDD+ Implementation in India", and Sh. V.R.S.



Rawat, Additional Director, Forests and Climate Change Division, ICFRE presented a paper on "Overview of REDD+; Concepts and International negotiations in Indian context during the workshop. The workshop has been very fruitful in developing understanding of REDD+ to the participants. Gujarat Government has agreed to implement a REDD+ pilot project in the state. ICFRE has submitted a Concept Note to Gujarat Government for implementing a REDD+ pilot studies in Gujarat.



Following other presentation were also made during the workshop:

- ◇ Assessment of Carbon sequestration in Gujarat: Ongoing study by Dr. C.N. Pandey, Addl, PCCF Gujarat.
- ◇ REDD plus MRV: Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Sr. Deputy Director, FSI, Dehradun.
- ◇ Forest protection: Problem and solutions by Dr. Jagdish Prasad, CCF(SF), Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- ◇ Landscape planning in Forestry – An example of GI S based Landscape planning for Green India Mission by Sh. E. Vikram, DCF, Green India Mission, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, Shimla.
- ◇ Scope of energy efficiency and renewable energy in Forest Fringe areas by Mr. Anil Purohit, Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA).
- ◇ Climate Change/REDD+ initiatives in Gujarat by Sh. Pravin Prakash, Centre Environmental Education (CEE), Ahmadabad (Gujarat).

### Lecture Delivered

**Guest Lecture on "Reduction in Emission due to Deforestation and Degradation and Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources:** Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (FCC), ICFRE delivered a lecture on "Reduction in Emission due to Deforestation and Degradation and Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources" in the training programme on 'Forest Genetic Resource Management' for officers of Indian Forest Officers at IFGTB, Coimbatore on 13 September 2012.



## Media Reporting

**Reduced Sea Ice, Warming Elevates Arctic Temperatures:** Melting sea ice and global warming are elevating Arctic temperatures up to four times faster than the global average, according to latest research conducted at the University of Melbourne School of Earth Sciences (Source: Times of India, 9 July 2012).

**Warning Climate Damaging Reefs, Impacting Fish Worldwide:** The impact of a warming climate on reefs is already upon us — complex changes have begun that could fundamentally change what reefs look like in the future. This in turn could impact on fish populations and their availability. That was the overarching message from a panel of coral reef experts, who are on the forefront of understanding the impact of a rising seawater temperatures and ocean acidification (Source: DNA, 12 July 2012).

**Sea Levels May Rise Much Higher Due to Warning:** Sea levels may rise much higher than previously thought, as a new study on fossil corals has found that warmer climes in the past promoted dramatic melting of polar ice. Researchers built an extensive database by compiling age and elevation data of fossil corals that live near the sea surface, using a model to factor in the physics of how changing masses of ice sheets would affect regional sea level at the various fossil coral sites by the researchers of the Australian National University (Source: The Hindu, 16 July 2012).

**Tibetan Glaciers Retreating Rapidly:** The Chinese scientists analysed satellite measurements of the lengths and surface areas of about 7,100 glaciers. They also physically measured 15 glaciers for decades in order to confirm the net changes taking place. They found that the majority of the glaciers have been shrinking rapidly across the studied area in the past 30 years, and at accelerating rates. The Tibetan plateau and the mountain ranges radiating from it - the Himalayas, the Karakoram, the Pamir and the Qilian - contain 100,000 square kilometres of glaciers that supply water to about 1.4 billion people in Asia through huge river systems like the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, Mekong, Yangtze etc. This gigantic collection of freshwater - mostly ice - has led many to call the region the Third Pole of the Earth. Global warming and related climate changes may cause reduction of water in this gigantic lifeline affecting billions (Source: Times of India, 18 July 2012).

**Climate Change Casts Shadow Over Coral Reef Survival:** Scientists have warned that there is little hope for the survival of coral reefs unless greenhouse gas emissions are curtailed. Global warming and ocean acidification, both driven by human-caused carbon dioxide emissions, pose a major threat to these ecosystems, they said (Source: The Hindu, 21 September 2012).



## Past Events

- ◇ **Regional Expert Meeting:** Regional expert meeting on a range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events was organized by UNFCCC from 23 to 25 Jul 2012 at Mexico City, Mexico.
- ◇ **Informal Meeting Ad-hoc Working Groups of UNFCCC (AWG-KP - and AWG-LCA):** AWG-KP 17 - informal AWG-LCA 15 – informal meeting was organized by UNFCCC in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 August to 5 September 2012.
- ◇ **Third meeting of the High-Level Panel on the CDM Policy Dialogue:** The third meeting of the High-Level Panel on the CDM Policy Dialogue was held from 25 to 26 July 2012 at Johannesburg, South Africa
- ◇ **38th Meeting of the CDM Small Scale Working Group:** The thirty-eighth meeting of the CDM Small Scale Working Group was held from 7 to 10 August 2012 at Bonn, Germany.
- ◇ **Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change:** The second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change was organized from 3 to 7 September 2012 at Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- ◇ **69th Meeting of the CDM Executive Board:** The Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism had held its 69th meeting to consider matters relating to the operation of the CDM from 17 to 21 at Bonn, Germany.
- ◇ **Third Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO<sub>2</sub> World:** The symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO<sub>2</sub> World was organized from 24 to 27 September 2012 at Monterey, California, USA to discuss the impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms, ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles. It will also cover socioeconomic consequences of ocean acidification, including policy and management implications.
- ◇ **Conference on Climate Change and Development Policy:** The conference on "Climate Change and Development Policy" was organized from 28 to 29 September 2012 at Helsinki, Finland. The conference will evaluate how research can inform development policy and identify existing knowledge gaps, focusing on both low-carbon development (mitigation) and climate-resilient strategies (adaptation).



## Upcoming Events

**Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD:** Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD will be held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. During this meeting Biodiversity and climate change and related issues (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) will also be discussed.

**Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa:** The second Climate Change and Development in Africa conference of the Climate for Development in Africa provides a forum for dialogue and engagement with various stakeholders involved in climate and development in Africa. And will be organized from 19 to 20 October 2012 at Addis Ababa (Adis Abeba), Ethiopia.

**National Research Conference on Climate Change:** The Indian Climate Research Network (ICRN) which is a consortium of organizations like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and Delhi based Centre for Science and Environment will organize the third national research conference on climate change at Indian Institute of Science Bangalore on 3- 4 November 2012. The conference will cover topics related to the scientific, technical, economic and policy aspects of climate change in South Asian countries.

**International Conference on Global Environmental Change and Human Security:** Third International Conference on Global Environmental Change and Human Security will be organized by North-South Center for Social Sciences, Morocco, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany, Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Morocco and National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Leadership, India from 22 to 24, November 2012 at Marrakesh.

**18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol:** The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from 26 November to 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.

**International Conference on Earth Science and Climate Change:** International Conference on Earth Science and Climate Change will be organized in Paris, France from 28-29 November 2012 and it aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Earth Science and Climate Change.



**International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change:** International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be organized from 29th to 30th December 2012 at Hong Kong, China.

### Relevant Publications

- ◇ Guidebook on Afforestation and Reforestation CDM Projects in India by Sandeep Tripathi, Tajinder Pal Singh, V.R.S. Rawat, Rajiv Pandey and R.S. Rawat (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, 2012).
- ◇ Changes in carbon stocks in Indian forests : A historical overview by Mehraj A. Sheikh, Munesh Kumar, Jahangeer A. Bhat, Nazir A. Pala, V.R.S. Rawat and N. P. Todaria (Indian Forester, August 2012, Vol. 138 No. 8).
- ◇ Biomass estimation and carbon storage in selected multipurpose trees and common wild grasses by A. Miria and Anisa Basheer Khan, (Indian Forester, September 2012, Vol. 138 No. 9).
- ◇ Climate Change and Some New Research Initiatives in India by Renji Ramesan (Journal of Earth Science and Climate Change, 2012, 3:1).
- ◇ Climate Change in the Indian Mind by Anthony Leiserowitz and Jagadish Thaker (<http://environment.yale.edu/climate/files/Climate-Change-Indian-Mind.pdf> , 2012)
- ◇ An Evaluation of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change by Sujatha Byravan and Sudhir Chella Rajan (Centre for Development Finance (CDF), IFMR and Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, [www.indiaclimatemissions.org](http://www.indiaclimatemissions.org) 2012).





*Conceptualization and Compilation by:*

Dr. T.P. Singh, Dr. R.S. Rawat and V.R.S. Rawat  
Forests and Climate Change Division  
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun—248 006 (Uttarakhand, INDIA)

*Please Mail for Suggestion to:*

Dr. T.P. Singh  
Assistant Director General (Forests and Climate Change)  
E-mail: [tpsingh@icfre.org](mailto:tpsingh@icfre.org), [adg\\_fcc@icfre.org](mailto:adg_fcc@icfre.org)  
Contact No. +91-135-2755399, 2224839

