



LIFE
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Environment

Report on Seminar on 'Role of Women in Conservation of Environment'

20th March 2024

ICFRE-Forest Research Institute

Dehradun

Forest Research Institute organized a seminar on very important topic '**Role of Women in Conservation of Environment**' on 20th March 2024. More than a hundred women scientists, officers, technical officers and women employees from various institutions located in the New Forest campus participated in the program.

The chief guest of the function was **Smt. Kusum Kandwal, Chairperson, Uttarakhand State Commission for Women. Dr. Manisha Thapliyal, Scientist-G** of the institute, welcomed the gathering and discussed the importance of the topic 'Role of women in environmental conservation'. **Dr. Renu Singh, Director, Forest Research Institute**, in her address said that women play an important role in the management of natural resources including soil, water, forests and energy and often have deep traditional and contemporary knowledge of the natural world around them. She talked about Amrita Devi's protests against the cutting of trees to build a palace for the Maharaja of Jodhpur and how Gaura Devi, leader of the Chipko movement, organized women to cling to the trees in order to protect them from being cut. She talked about a World Bank study which reported that gender equality is essential for countries' economies. Sustainable development is not possible without equality. Esteemed speaker of the programme, **Smt. Meenakshi Joshi, Principal, Central Academy for State Forest Service**, said in her address that a few decades ago, women had to really struggle to get positions and responsibilities in their departments. At that time, women officers in forest departments as well as women

scientists in research institutes were very few in number but now the situation is changing rapidly and they have reached top positions in their departments and are doing excellent and commendable work in the field. She also spoke about the excellent works of famous women environmentalists in the field of natural resource conservation. She reiterated that we should celebrate our achievements and successes as a team. The chief guest of the function, **Mrs. Kusum Kandwal, Chairperson, Uttarakhand State Women Commission**, said in her address that women have been pioneers in the mass movements for environmental protection, which became successful due to the participation of workers especially women at the grassroot level. She further said that women have inherent leadership qualities and they lead the institutions and society in the same way they manage their family and home. She called upon women to empower and support other women in society and at the workplace and also be aware of their responsibilities and rights at the workplace. At the end of the seminar, **Dr. Parul Bhatt Kotiyal, Senior Scientist and Coordinator EIACP RP** proposed a vote of thanks.

Glimpses of the Seminar













