



**A REPORT
ON
CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FOREST RANGE
OFFICERS OF UTJ&K
HELD AT
FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE, BIKRAM CHOWK, JAMMU
(22.08.2025)**

ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organised one day capacity building training programme for the Forest Range Officers (FROs) of Jammu and Kashmir forest department on August 22, 2025 at Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk, Jammu. The training programme was mainly focused on imparting knowledge about Soil Test Based Nutrient Management Practices and developing in-depth understanding of soils in forest ecosystems. Smt. Kanchan Devi, Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun graced the inaugural session as chief guest and Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF of UT Jammu and Kashmir, officiated the occasion as special guest. Sh. Sarvesh Rai, PCCF and Chief Wild Life Warden, Sh. T. Rabi Kumar, PCCF/CEO, CAMPA, Dr. K. Anandh, CCF Central, Ms. Prinyanka Sareen, CF Agrostology division were also present in the inaugural session. About forty FROs from Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Urban Forestry, Udhampur forest division and officers from Soil Conservation Training School, Forest Guard training School, Agrostology and Research division attended the training programme physically and sixty participants were joined virtually through google meet link.

Firstly, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director HFRI extended warm welcome to the chief guest, special guest, distinguished forest officers and participants of the training programme. Then, he briefed about the significant achievements and R&D activities of institute. He put together background information about the assignment of Preparations of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs). Dr. Sandeep Sharma informed that HFRI Shimla was entrusted with responsibility of Preparation of FSHCs for all the territorial forest divisions of Himachal Pradesh, UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Further, he told that capacity building of frontline staff of forest department was also envisioned as a major objective under the project with the main aim of sharing knowledge about management of forest soils and practical usage of FSHCs in plantation activities. He also expressed gratitude to JK

forest department for providing full support and cooperation to HFRI staff in field work across different forest types in UT J&K. Finally, he thanked all the participants of the capacity building training programme and hoped that it will be immensely useful to them. Thereafter, the inaugural session featured **'RELEASE OF FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) OF UT J&K'** by Smt. Kanchan Devi, DG, ICFRE, Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, PCCF& HoFF, UT J&K and other distinguished Senior Officers of JK forest department.

After this, Sh. S.K Gupta addressed the gathering and explicitly elaborated important and multifarious role of soils for all organisms including plant life and human beings. He shed light on the soil degradation and its major challenges to the sustainability of ecosystems. He said that soils of world are under stress due to many anthropogenic and natural factors. He asserted that it is essential to assess and improve the soil health in forest ecosystems in view of the nationally determined goals of creating additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons by 2030. Sh. S.K Gupta added that plantation activities cannot achieve the optimum results due to various soil related constraints and less availability of exact information about the nutrient status in forest soils. He also described the key role of research organisation like ICFRE and HFRI for providing concrete information to the forest department for better management of precious natural resources. He said that capacity building programme on nutrient management in forest soils will definitely help the field functionaries to know about various aspects of forest soils and simultaneously enhance their skills to carry out the nursery and field plantation related tasks more effectively.

In the presidential address, Smt. Kanchan Devi delved details of soils as basic life support system and its close connection with vegetation. She stated that forest soils develop over a long period of time under the influence of forest cover, bedrock and micro-organisms. Illustrating the heart and soul connection of soils and vegetation, she said that tree species/ vegetation growing in forested landscapes affect the soils as well as the microclimate. Similarly, growth and survival of trees and associated vegetation largely depends on the health of underlying soil layers. Therefore, understanding the nutrient status and health of forest soils is very essential so as to increase forest productivity, enhance microbial populations, achieve optimum success in plantation activities, and maintain forest ecosystem stability. Additionally, Smt. Kanchan Devi strongly emphasized the need of separate study on forest soils in light of the influences of nutrient cycling and rhizosphere biology in the natural environment. She told that ICFRE take up the broad based study on the forest soils under one of the All India coordinated research projects with the financial assistance from the CAMPA Scheme of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi. She said that each institute of ICFRE was assigned the task to prepare the FSHCs of States and Union Territory (UTs) under their jurisdiction and it is the first initiative of its kind in forestry sector, aiming at

broad assessment of nutrient status in forest soils and formulating suitable management practices for degraded areas. Smt. Kanchan Devi specifically mentioned role of frontline staff of forest department as sentinels of forests ecosystem and appreciated their endeavours in protection and conservation of forest resources. She also congratulated Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Shimla for successfully completing the task of preparation of FSHCs of one state and two UTs. She appealed scientific community and forest managers to work in synergy for conserving the valuable forest resources.

The technical session begins with the presentation of Dr. RK Verma, Scientist-G and Principal Investigator (PI) of project. In his presentation, he shared granular details about the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) of UTJ&K. The PI explained about the robust methodology using GIS and RS tools for deciding the sampling locations and quantum of samples to be collected from each forest division in J&K. He said that soil samples have been collected from very dense, moderately dense, open forest, scrub forest and non-forest areas and subsequently processed / analysed as per standard protocols. He described the procedures for drawing reference range, division wise test values of twelve comprehensive soil parameters.

Then, Dr. Vijender Pal Panwar, Scientist-F and National Project Coordinator (NPC), Forest Research Institute(FRI), Dehradun shared his views and emphasised upon the implication of soil characterization in perspective with the productivity of forest ecosystems. He told that the initiative of preparation of FSHCs aims to generate countrywide comprehensive information about status of forest soils and improve the status of degraded areas. NPC discussed the status of various nutrients in forest soils of Jammu & Kashmir. He also discussed the physiological roles/pathways of NPK and micronutrients in soil plant system and provided useful insights about visible nutrient deficiency symptoms, nutrient dynamics and nutrient management in forest soils.

The last presentation of technical session was given by Dushyant Kumar, Sr.Technical Officer & Co-PI of the project. He particularly discussed about the contents of FSHCs, recommendations given for recouping the nutrient deficiency and calculations of different doses of FYM/Vermi-compost/ and in-organics recommendations suggested in FSHCs of different forest divisions aligning with the field conditions. The Co-PI also presented an overview of Forest Soil Health Card web portal- <https://forestsoilhealthcards.icfre.gov.in:8443/FSHC/index> and demonstrated test run of web portal to the participants.

During the plenary session, participants put up queries related to management of soils in field and nursery conditions and discussed their doubts with the scientists. They provided constructive feedbacks and expressed satisfaction about the capacity building training programme. Sh.Dushyant Kumar moderated the proceedings of capacity building training programme and finally concluded with formal vote of thanks.

☆ Glimpses & Snippets ☆







DG ICFRE inaugurates CBP for J&K Forest Officers, releases Forest Soil Health Cards

GJ REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 22: Director General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Kanchan Devi, inaugurated a one-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Forest Range Officers (FROs) and frontline officials of the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department at the Forest Information Centre, Birkam Chowk, Jammu. The training programme focused on Soil Test Based Nutrient Management Practices and enriching field functionaries' knowledge of forest ecosystems.

In her presidential address, the DG emphasized the importance of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs), prepared for all Territorial Forest Divisions of J&K under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change



DG ICFRE, Kanchan Devi chairing inaugural session of a Capacity Building Programme for J&K Forest Officers at Jammu.

(MoEFCC), Government of India. She underlined that afforestation and plantation activities must be guided by soil health parameters for long-term success. "There is a seamless connection between vegetation and soils, and the future of plantations depends on understanding soil nutrient status and improving soil health," she said.

Kanchan Devi also noted that earlier forest soils were assumed similar to agricultural soils, but research has shown they are

distinct due to nutrient cycling and rhizosphere biology in natural ecosystems. To address this, ICFRE launched the first-ever pan-India project for preparation of FSHCs under different vegetation types with support from the CAMPA Scheme.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, PCCF & HOFF J&K, thanked ICFRE and Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, for completing the FSHCs for J&K and urged officials to use them for raising qual-

ity planting material and ensuring successful afforestation. He emphasized soils' role in carbon sequestration and warned that plantation efforts cannot succeed without addressing soil-related constraints.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director HFRI Shimla, briefed participants about the methodology of preparing FSHCs, including soil sampling from multiple forest types across J&K, analyzed using standard protocols. He stressed that the cards will enable forest officers to make evidence-based field decisions.

Technical sessions were conducted by Dr. R.K. Verma (HFRI, Shimla) and Dr. Vijender Pal Panwar (FRI, Dehradun), who explained the scientific basis of the project, sampling methodology, and national implementation framework.

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Forest Soil Health Cards for J&K: DG, ICFRE

JAMMU, AUGUST 22: Director General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Kanchan Devi, today inaugurated one-day capacity building programme for the Forest Range Officers (FROs) and other frontline functionaries for Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department at Forest Information Centre, Birkam Chowk, here.

The training programme was mainly focused on increasing the capacity of forest officials on Soil Test Based Nutrient Management Practices and enrich knowledge about the forest ecosystems amongst the field functionaries.

DG, ICFRE during her presidential address, highlighted the importance of Forest Soil Health Cards with special reference to Jammu & Kashmir. She said that under the programme launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, For-



est Soil Health Cards for all Territorial Forest Divisions have been prepared. She called upon the field officers to plan their afforestation and plantation programmes keeping in view the parameters of soil health of the area for success of plantation programmes. She told that there is a seamless connection between vegetation and soils. Forest soils develop over a long period of time under the influence of forest cover, bedrock and micro-organisms. Tree species/vegetation growing in forested landscapes affect the soils as well as the microclimate, she added. Similarly, growth and

zosphere biology in the natural environment and it necessitates the need for assessment of forest soils separately. Therefore, in this backdrop, ICFRE envisioned to take up a broad based study on the forest soils under the All India coordinated research project on Preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) under different vegetation types in all the forest divisions of the India, with the financial assistance under the CAMPA Scheme from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi. It is the first initiative of its kind in the forestry sector, aiming at broad assessment of nutrient status in forest soils and subsequently formulate suitable management practices for degraded areas. She said that ICFRE has a pan India presence with nine regional research institutes present in different bio-geo-graphic zones of India.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K, Jammu & Kashmir, expressed gratitude to ICFRE and HFRI, Shimla for completion of Forest Soil Health Cards for territorial forest divisions of J&K. He advised all the field functionaries attending the programme to seek the guidance from the respective Forest Soil Health Cards of their divisions for raising quality planting material in the nurseries and successful afforestation in the field. He also called upon continuous interaction and collaboration with ICFRE especially its institute i.e. HFRI, Shimla. He said that soils of world are under stress due to many anthropogenic and natural factors. He asserted that it is essential to assess and improve the soil health in forest ecosystems in view of the nationally determined goals of creating additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons by 2030.



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Forest soil health cards to guide afforestation in J&K

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Director General, ICFRE, Kanchan Devi, inaugurates one-day capacity building programme for the forest range officers in Jammu.

Director General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Kanchan Devi, today inaugurated a one-day capacity building programme for the Forest Range Officers (FROs) and other frontline functionaries for Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department at the Forest Information Centre here.

ڈی جی آئی سی ایف آر ای نے جموں میں ایک روزہ تربیتی پروگرام کا افتتاح کیا



کرناتات اور مٹی کے درمیان کیمیا
ہے۔ جنگلات مٹی جنگل کے احاطہ،
بند کر اور باغیچہ آ کر کھوکھلے کے زیر اثر
ایک طویل عرصے تک تبدیل ہو جاتا ہے۔
درختوں کی اقسام اور جنگلات کی پودے مٹی
اور مٹی کی آب و ہوا کو متاثر کرتے ہیں۔
ہیں۔ وہی طرح درختوں اور مٹی سے
منسلک چودوں کی نشوونما اور پتہ کار یا دم

جموں، 22 اگست 2025ء
ڈائریکٹر جنرل ایٹرنل کونسل فار
فارسٹری ریسرچ اینڈ ایجوکیشن (آئی سی
ایف آر ای) جن جن نے آج جموں
و کشمیر جنگلات کے فارسٹ ریج
اشران (ایف آر او) اور دیگر فیلڈ
اشران کے لئے ایک روزہ تربیتی
پروگرام کا افتتاح کیا۔ یہ پروگرام
فارسٹ انفارمیشن سینٹر بھرم چوک جموں
میں منعقد ہوا۔ تربیتی پروگرام کا بنیادی
منقصد جنگلات کے ماز میں مٹی کی
حیثیت پر مبنی تعلیمی اہلیت کے ارتقاء کے
خطریں پر مصلحت کو برصا تا اور فیلڈ
مے میں جنگلاتی ماحولیاتی نظام کے
بارے میں معلومات میں اضافہ کرنا

جموں ڈائریکٹر (بقیہ) 104

