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From the Director's Desk



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ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI) is one of the nine Research Institutes of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and is premier research organisation in the National Forestry Research System.

The institute along with its two satellite centres- ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl and ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (ICFRE-LEC), Agartala has established themselves as a major centre for research on forestry & ecology related issues to extend knowledge through research, education and extension in general and to support forestry research in North Eastern states.

I take pride on this momentous occasion unveiling the 5th issue (October-December, 2024) of the ICFRE-RFRI, newsletter showcasing different research activities, events organized, participated, publications made during this period of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat.

This special issue featuring news such as Parliamentary Standing Committee(PSC)'s visit to ICFRE-RFRI, Deputy Director General of ICFRE's visit to ICFRE-RFRI, Pre-release consultation meeting on Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHC)s for Tripura, Workshop on Coal Mined Land Resoration in Meghalaya, Training on Bamboo Resource Development for IFS officers, Inking of MoUs with NECBDC and Dibrugarh University, etc.

I hope that the ICFRE-RFRI Newsletter will serve as a beacon of information on the institutional research and extension activities and will be helpful for researchers, stakeholders and policy planners concerned with forestry research.


Dr. Nitin Kulkarni
Director, ICFRE-RFRI, JORHAT

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

The ICFRE- Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI) has successfully enumerated and tagged 35,264 plants (DBH \geq 1cm) in a 10-hectare permanent plot across Jeypore and Soraipung Forest Ranges of Dihing Patkai National Park, Assam. The effort is a part of the project “Study of Climate- Driven Effects on Indian Forests Through Long- Term Monitoring.”



ICFRE- Rain Forest Research Institute has developed a Plant Growth Promoter “**TRIGRO**” that prevents Fungal and Bacterial Diseases in Plants. This product is the outcome of the CAMPA funded “All India Coordinated Research Project on *Dalbergia sisoo*” (AICRP- 11).

A Plant growth promoter
Prevents Fungal and Bacterial Diseases
Prevents Fungal and Bacterial Diseases

TRIGRO



ICFRE-RAIN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
JORHAT, ASSAM

Advisory Note on TRIGRO

A Plant growth promoter that Prevents Fungal and Bacterial Diseases in Plants

Trichoderma species are fungal organism that can help farmers/ tree growers to grow better crops and have higher income while protecting the soil environment. They are living freely in soil in natural environments worldwide. ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, has developed a product “TRIGRO” for plant protection that contains special strain of living *Trichoderma harzianum*. That product has been formulated in such a way that farmers and tree growers can easily apply them in the field.

It is a safe and effective biocontrol agent (BCA) that can control a variety of fungal and bacterial diseases, such as wilt, damping off, root rot, stem rot, and downy mildew. But not only that! *Trichoderma harzianum* is a yield booster that makes crops/ trees look healthier, grow bigger, and show better root development.

How is it doing this? *Trichoderma* works best in the soil. It is a biological degrader and competitor of fungal plant pathogens, which has evolved mechanisms for attacking other fungi in the root zone of a plant. The user should use *Trichoderma harzianum* when they have problems with soil borne fungal pathogen, rooting (disintegration of parts of a plant), damping off (rapid death and collapse of very young plants), and wilting (loss of turgidity and drooping of leaves or shoots) is often caused by such soil pathogens.

Trichoderma harzianum is most effectively used as a plant strengthener for seed and seedling diseases. Especially, seed treatment (coating) is highly recommendable. Products containing *Trichoderma harzianum* are best used as soil amendments, sometimes also as foliar sprays. Most importantly, these biocontrol agents work best, if they do not have to compete with already established communities of soil microorganisms. Then, the fungus grows rapidly and can suppress other microorganisms. Therefore, *Trichoderma harzianum* is the best introduced during the seedling stage and early growth phase of plants. Temperature and humidity are important factors to consider when applying this BCA in the field. For instance, *Trichoderma harzianum* grows well at 30°C and below, but cannot tolerate more than 36°C. This means application in the field should be carried out in the evening, best after having irrigated or sprinkled the crops/trees.

This product is the outcome of the CAMPA funded “All India Coordinated Research Project on *Dalbergia sisoo*” (AICRP-11).

ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Setai, Jorhat-785001.

Workshops/Seminars/Meetings/Trainings

ICFRE-LEC Organizes Bamboo Craft Training in Tripura

Rajibnagar, Tripura, September 30- October 2, 2024: ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (ICFRE-LEC), Agartala, organized a “Capacity Building Training on Bamboo Jewellery and Utility Handicrafts for Livelihood Development” at the Nalchar Bamboo Craft Producer Company Limited, Rajibnagar, Tripura. The hands-on training was conducted by Master Craftsman Shri Jayanta Nama, was attended by 25 unemployed artisans, including 18 women, from Sepahijala district. Shri Niren Das, Chief Technical Officer, ICFRE-LEC, coordinated the program.



GREAT QUOTES

The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.

John Muir



ICFRE-RFRI Conducts Training on Plant Propagation at Kaziranga

Kohora, Kaziranga National Park, October 4, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, in collaboration with the State Forest Department and Assam Agroforestry Development Board, organized a training on the “**Propagation and Cultivation of *Schumannianthus dichotomus* and *Costus speciosus***” at the Convention Center, Kohora, Kaziranga National Park (KNP), Assam. The session saw the release of two technical brochures on plant propagation by Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Director of Kaziranga National Park. The training, led by experts Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, Chief Technical Officer; Shri Protul Hazarika, Chief Technical Officer and Dr. Tajum Doni, Scientist-C was attended by 47 trainees, including forestry officials, farmers and social workers.



ICFRE-RFRI organizes training on “Bio-fertilizers and Mushroom Cultivation”

Nari, Arunachal Pradesh, October 8, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, in collaboration with ArSRLM and the Nari Circle administration, organized a training on “Bio-fertilizers and Mushroom Cultivation” at ADC Community Hall, Nari, Arunachal Pradesh. The session was inaugurated by Shri Ainsten Koyu, ADC Nari, with an introduction by Shri Jomi Kaye, ArSRLM. The training, led by experts such as Dr. Mudang Yampi, Dr. Mitali Mehta, Scientist-B; Dr. Girish Gogoi, Assistant Chief Technical Officer and Shri Prosanta Kardong, Sr. Technician from ICFRE-RFRI, was attended by 40 members from various SHGs of Nari Circle.



ICFRE-RFRI conducts “Skill Development Training on Bamboo”

Jorhat, October 23-25, 2024: A three-day “**Skill Development Training on Bamboo**”, sponsored by TATA Trusts was conducted by ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Inaugurated by Dr. R.K. Borah, Scientist-F, the training was led by Shri R.K. Kalita, Scientist-F and Course Director, with expert sessions by ICFRE-RFRI staff. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat distributed certificates and delivered the valedictory address.





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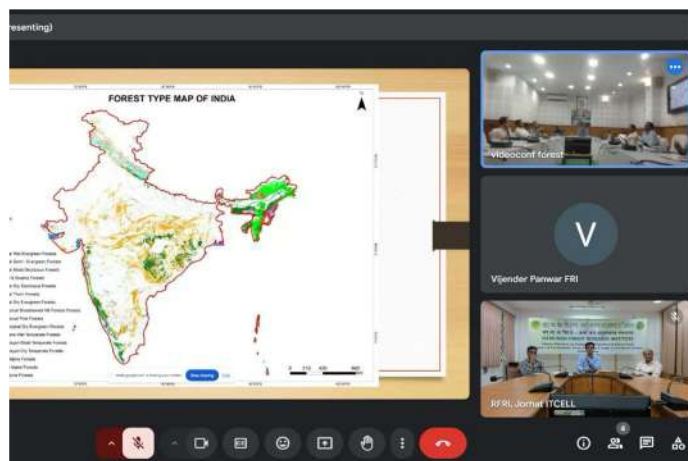
Synopsis Seminar at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 29, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, conducted a synopsis seminar on under the chairmanship of Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of the Institute. Three Ph. D. students under FRI (Deemed) University presented their research progress. The event saw active participation from 15 Ph.D. scholars, fostering a vibrant academic discussion and exchange of ideas.



ICFRE-RFRI holds Consultation on Soil Health Cards for Tripura

Jorhat, November 4, 2024: ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, organized a hybrid pre-release consultation meeting on Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHC) for Tripura. Chaired by Shri R.K. Samal, PCCF & HoFF, the session included key officials like Shri Praveen Agrawal and Divisional Forest Officers. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat inaugurated the meeting, while Dr. Vijendra Panwar, Scientist-F and National Project Coordinator and Shri Dinesh Kumar Meena, Project Investigator and Scientist-D, presented the project overview and findings. The initiative assessed 12 key soil properties for eight divisions in Tripura, with the participation of 29 officials.



Workshop on Coal Mined Land Restoration held in Shillong

Shillong, November 13-14, 2024: ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI), Jorhat, organized a workshop on “**Restoration of Coal Mine Land with Microbial Technology**” at Sylvan House, Shillong. Shri R.P. Marak, IAS, Secretary of the Mining and Geology Department, Meghalaya, inaugurated the event. Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, Chief Technical Officer, conducted the workshop, while Mohit Kumar Singh, SPF and PhD scholar, demonstrated the application of microbial technology. The event was attended by 30 officials from the Directorate of Mineral Resources and forest divisions of Meghalaya.



Training on Forestry for Livelihood Development held in Agartala

Agartala, November 18-20, 2024: A three-day training program on “**Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues in Northeastern States**” was organized by ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, at ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, with sponsorship from MoEF&CC, Government of India. Shri R.K. Samal, PCCF & HoFF, Tripura, inaugurated the program. Sessions were led by experts, including Dr. R.K. Borah, Group Coordinator (Research), ICFRE-RFRI and Shri R.K. Kalita, Head, ICFRE-LEC and Dr. Thingreingam Irenaeus KS from the College of Agriculture, Lembuchera. A total of 34 participants, including JFMC members, students, NGOs, and social activists, attended the event.



Training Workshop on Ecosystem Health Card held in Tripura

Agartala, November 27-29, 2024: The ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (ICFRE-LEC), Tripura, a unit of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, organized a three-day training workshop on “**Preparation of Ecosystem Health Card**” for Indian Forest Service Officers. The event, held in collaboration with IIFM Bhopal and NCSCM Chennai, was sponsored by MoEF&CC, Government of India. The workshop was inaugurated by Tripura’s Forest Minister, Shri Animesh Debbarma, with Shri R.K. Samal, PCCF & HoFF, and Dr. Avinash M. Kanfode, MD, TFDPC, addressed the gathering. The workshop benefitted 18 senior- level forest officers from 11 states.



ICFRE-RFRI hosts Training on Bamboo Resources Development for IFS Officers

Jorhat, December 2-6, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat organized a weeklong training on Bamboo Resources Development for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Dr. R.K. Borah, Group Coordinator (Research), ICFRE-RFRI presented the institute's research activities, while Dr. T.C. Bhuyan, Consultant, NECDBC offered insights on the bamboo sector. The training, planned and conducted by Shri R.K. Kalita, Scientist-F and Course Director of the Training Programme was attended by 10 IFS officers from seven states.



ICFRE-LEC conducts Vermicomposting Training in Tripura

Agartala, December 13, 2024: ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, conducted a training on low-cost vermicomposting techniques for livelihood generation at North Mainama, Longtharai Valley, Dhalai district, Tripura. Shri Niren Das, Chief Technical Officer and Program Coordinator, led the session, which was attended by 30 unemployed tribal SHG members, including 23 women, nominated by Youth for Integration (YFI), a North- East based NGO. The training aimed to empower participants with sustainable income-generating skills.





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Training on Vermicomposting for Livelihood Generation in Tripura

Ishanpur, Tripura, December 19, 2024: ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, conducted a training on vermicomposting techniques for livelihood generation in Bairagi Para, Ishanpur. Shri Niren Das, Chief Technical Officer & Program Coordinator, was the resource person. The session was attended by 30 tribal SHG members, including 23 women.



Training on Low-Cost Vermicomposting for Livelihood Generation in South Tripura

Jolaibari, South Tripura, December 27, 2024: ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Center (ICFRE-LEC), Agartala, conducted a training on low-cost vermicomposting techniques for livelihood generation at Kalashi Mukh, Jolaibari. The training was led by Shri Niren Das, Chief Technical Officer & Program Coordinator. A total of 35 SHG members, including 25 women, participated in the session.



PARTICIPATION FROM ICFRE-RFRI IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/TRAININGS/

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni attends JICA's 2nd Joint Coordination Committee Meeting.

Shillong, Meghalaya, October 3-4, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat participated in the 2nd Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for the JICA- sponsored project “**Bamboo Use Promotion Project in North Eastern Region**” jointly organized by the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and the North East Cane & Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) in Shillong, Meghalaya. The meeting was attended by distinguished officials including the First Secretary of the Japan Embassy, the Head of JICA India, representatives from JICA, Japan, and State Bamboo Mission delegates from all the North Eastern states. The Commissioner of Horticulture, as Chairman, and NECBDC officials also played key roles in the discussions.



Dr. Nitin Kulkarni attends JICA- Organized Meeting on Bamboo as Livestock Feed

Burnihat, October 22, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in a meeting organized by the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) in Burnihat, Assam. Dr. Ichiro Oshina, Associate Professor at Kagoshima University, Japan, delivered a lecture titled “**Can bamboo be used as livestock feed?**” The event held under the JICA platform, was attended by officials from Japan, including Mr. Hisashi Nabenishi and Mr. Nagaoka Hirokazu, as well as local dignitaries from Assam Agricultural University and NECBDC.



Dr. Nitin Kulkarni meets with Wetlands International South Asia Officials

On October 25, 2024, Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat hosted a meeting with officials from Wetlands International South Asia at ICFRE-RFRI.

Shri Amitabha Roy participated in a training on “Role of Technology in Community-Level Disaster Management”

Mussoorie, October 21-25, 2024: Shri Amitabha Roy, Scientist-B, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat participated in a training on “**Role of Technology in Community-Level Disaster Management**” held at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

CSIR-NEIST hosts “One Week One Theme” Program on Agriculture and Biotechnology

Jorhat, November 9, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat participated in the “**One Week One Theme**” Program organized by CSIR- NEIST, Jorhat, focussing on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Biotechnology. The event featured Shri S.V. Shukla, Director of FFDC, Kannauj, as Chief Guest, and Dr. P.K. Trivedi, Director of CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, as the CSIR Convener. Dr. Kulkarni emphasized the role of forest resources, value addition, and biotechnology in promoting livelihoods, nutrition, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The program saw participation from industry leaders, NGOs, farmers, and CSIR faculty.



ICFRE-RFRI Director Participates in Workshop on Bamboo Industry Development

Guwahati, November 12, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in the workshop on **“Emerging Areas of the Global Bamboo Industry: Role of Startups for Spearheading Bamboo Sector Development in Assam.”**, organized by Assam State Bamboo Mission (ASBM) in collaboration with NEDFi, the event was inaugurated virtually by Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, and Mission Director, National Bamboo Mission. The workshop featured key speakers, including Dr. Lakshamanan C. Ayer, Secretary to the Govt. of Assam on Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises; Dr. Abhinav Kant, Director, Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala, Tripura; Shri Sazzad Alam, Mission Director, Assam State Bamboo Mission and Shri S.K. Baruah, Executive Director, NEDFi, Guwahati brought together bamboo experts, entrepreneurs, farmers, NGOs, and academics to discuss the sector’s growth and innovation.



ICFRE-RFRI Scientists attend Workshop on Springshed Management in Brahmaputra Basin

Guwahati, November 13, 2024: Dr. Dhruva J. Das, Scientist F, and Dr. Nibedita Guru, Scientist-C of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat participated in a workshop on **“Springed Management in the Brahmaputra River Basin”**, organized by the Brahmaputra Board from November 12-13, 2024. The event was inaugurated by C.R. Patil, Honorable Union Minister of Jal Shakti, and attended by key officials, including Sh. Ashok K. Meena, IAS, and Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, IAS. There were discussions focussed on spring rejuvenation techniques, governance, and successful case studies, outlining strategies for effective implementations on the ground.



ICFRE-RFRI, Director attends Regional Consultation on Agroforestry Nursery Accreditation

Guwahati, November 29, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in a Regional Consultation Workshop on “**Nursery Accreditation Protocol of Agroforestry Nurseries**” organized by FAO India in collaboration with the Regional Office, Central Silk Board, Guwahati. The workshop brought together stakeholders from Northeastern states to provide input on establishing a National Accreditation Authority for Nursery Certification (NAANC) and a National Accreditation and Certification Recommendation Body (NACRB) as per Ministry of Agriculture guidelines.



ICFRE-RFRI Scientists attend Geo-Informatics Training for Women

Bhopal, November 29, 2024: Ms. Tara Kumari and Ms. Shahina N.N. both Scientist- B from ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in a training program on “**Applications of Geo-Informatics for Women Scientists and Technologies.**” The program, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DS&T), was held at the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal from November 18 to 29, 2024.



ICFRE-RFRI Staff Participate in Molecular Biology Training

Coimbatore, Nov 29, 2024: Mrs. Ritashree Khanikar(STO), Shri Debojit Saikia(STO), and Nayanjyoti Das(Technician) from ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, attended a training program on “**Basic Techniques in Plant Molecular Biology.**” The training was held at IFGTB, Coimbatore, from November 25-29, 2024.



ICFRE-RFRI Director Participates in 44th RAC Meeting of CMERTI

Jorhat, December 4, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in the 44th Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of the Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute (CSB-CMERTI), Lahdoigarh, Jorhat. The meeting, chaired by Prof. Bidyut Chandan Deka, Vice Chancellor of AAU, Jorhat, focussed on advancements in Muga and Eri silk research.



ICFRE-RFRI Director Attends Farmers' Fair Inauguration

Golaghat, December 7, 2024: Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, attended the inaugural session of Farmers' Fair 2024 at the AAU-Sugarcane, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Research Station (AAU-SMAPRS), Buralikson, Golaghat. The event was organized by AAU-SMAPRS to promote agricultural advancements.

ICFRE-RFRI Scientist Inspires Students with Talk on Biodiversity

Jorhat, December 24, 2024: Shri R.K. Kalita, Scientist-F, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, delivered an engaging talk on biodiversity to around 200 students and their teachers at PM SRI Fechual Jayashree High School, Jorhat, on December 24, 2024. Conducted under the **PM SRI Innovative Scheme**, the session aimed to inspire young minds toward environmental conservation and sustainable forestry practices.





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ICFRE-RFRI Scientist Visits Khumtai Plant & Flower Festival

Golaghat, December 31, 2024: Shri R.K. Kalita, Scientist- F, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, attended the Khumtai Plant & Flower Festival-3, a three-day rural event organized by MLA Shri Mrinal Saikia in Khumtai, Golaghat. Shri Kalita interacted with women trained by ICFRE-RFRI in bamboo shoot processing and value addition, who showcased and sold their products at the festival stalls.



VISIT OF GUESTS

Former ICFRE DG visits ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 25, 2024: Shri Arun Kumar Bansal, former ADG (Forest) and DG, ICFRE, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, accompanied by consultants Ms. Sashilia Ao and Ms. Tsonchumi Odyuo. They interacted with Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, and senior scientists, discussing potential collaboration under the JICA project. Shri Bansal also observed a bamboo charcoal klin demonstration by Dr. Runumi Devi Borthakur, Chief Technical Officer.





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Parliamentary Standing Committee Visits ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, Novemner 20 2024: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests, and Climate Change visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. The delegation comprising seven MPs and senior officials, toured an exhibition showcasing the institute's research achievements and held discussions with MoEFCC and ICFRE-RFRI's officials. Key participants included Shri K.B. Singh, IGF, Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, and Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICFRE.



ICFRE Deputy Director General Visits ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, November 21, 2024: Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE, Dehradun, made his maiden visit to ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. During a meeting on 20th November, he interacted with scientists and technical officers, delivering an inspiring message on dedication and ownership. On 21st November, Dr. Sharma toured ICFRE-RFRI's key facilities, including the Bambusetum, Botanical Garden, and Orchiderium, gaining insights into its research capabilities.



Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)

ICFRE-RFRI signs MoU with NECBDC for Bamboo Development

Guwahati, November 12, 2024: An MoU was signed between ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI), Jorhat, and the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC), Guwahati, to foster collaboration in bamboo sector development. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, and Shri Omi Nigshem, Managing Director, NECBDC, including Dr. Tilak Bhuyan, attended the event.



ICFRE-RFRI and Dibrugarh University Ink MoU for R&D Collaboration

Dibrugarh, December 12, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, and Dibrugarh University, Assam, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research and development for societal and environmental advancement through technology and innovation. The MoU was signed by Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, and Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI, in the presence of university officials, faculty members, and representatives from ICFRE-RFRI, including Dr. Rajib Kr. Borah and Dr. Prosanta Hazarika.





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Kissan Mela

ICFRE-RFRI Participates in Farmers' Fair at Titabar

Jorhat, November 6, 2024: ICFRE- Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, showcased its research and development activities at the Farmers' Fair organized by Assam Rice Research Institute, Titabar, Jorhat. Hundreds of farmers, students, academicians, and NGO members visited the ICFRE-RFRI exhibition stall. The institute was represented by Shri Bibhuti Deka, Chief Technical Officer; Shri Kumud Borah, Senior Technical Officer and Shri N.C. Das, Technical Officer.



ICFRE-RFRI Participates in Kisan Mela at Teok

Teok, Dec 21, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated in the "Kisan Mela" organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jorhat, at Koliapani Changmai Gaon. Shri Bibhuti Deka, Chief Technical Officer and Shri Kumud Borah, Senior Technical Officer, represented the institute, showcasing its research and development activities to farmers and visitors.



Mission Life Activities

Workshop on Vermicomposting and Waste Management held at Kakojan College

Jorhat, December 14, 2024: A workshop on “Vermicomposting and Solid Waste Management” was conducted at Kakojan College, Jorhat, under Mission LiFE. Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, Chief Technical Officer, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated as a resource person and delivered a presentation on “Waste Management and its impact on the Environment.” The workshop, organized by the Eco-Club of Kakojan College in collaboration with the IQAC and sponsored by MoEF&CC, Government of India, through ASTEC, Guwahati, saw the participation of 350 students and their teachers from 10 high schools under the Teok Educational Block.



Special Day Celebrations

ICFRE-RFRI Promotes Cleanliness Under Swachhata Hi Sewa

Jorhat, October 1, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI organized a cleanliness drive in its laboratories as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva initiative under the theme “Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi”. A selfie point was set up to boost staff engagement, with enthusiastic participation highlighting the institute’s commitment to cleanliness and sustainability.





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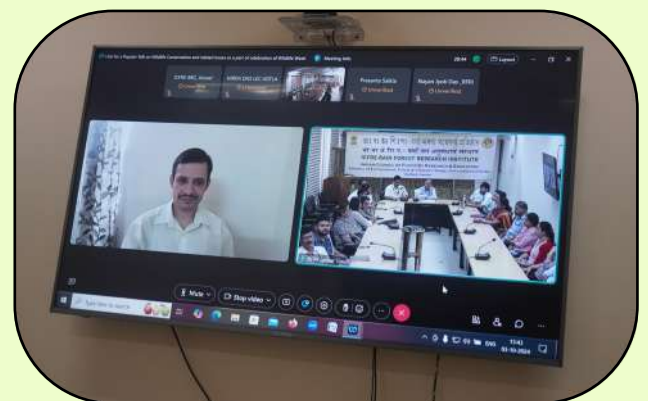
Gandhi Jayanti Celebrated as Swachh Bharat Divas at ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, October 2, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with a Swachh Bharat Divas program. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, along with staff, offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and administered the Swachhata Pledge. Safai Mitras were honored with traditional Phulam Gamosa. Ms. Tara Kumari, Scientist- B and Nodal Officer for the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, presented an overview of cleanliness initiatives conducted from September 17 to October 1, 2024. The event highlighted the institute's commitment to cleanliness and environmental responsibility.



Wildlife Week Celebrated at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 3, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, celebrated a special program as part of Wildlife Week (October 2-8) under the theme **“Conservation of Wildlife Through Coexistence.”** The day featured bird-watching at the Institute's Deovan Campus and a quiz competition conducted by Shri Ashim Chetia and Shri Francis Nath, Library Information Assistant. A virtual talk by Dr. Dipankar Lahkar, Senior Conservationist from Aaranyak, Guwahati, highlighted tiger conservation efforts in Manas National Park (MNP). Prizes were awarded to competition winners, with Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division, coordinating the event.





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ICFRE-RFRI hosts Lectures ahead of Vigilance Awareness Campaign 2024

Jorhat, October 4, 2024: As part of the Vigilance Awareness Campaign (16 August-15 November 2024), ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat organized two lectures. Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Vigilance Officer, spoke on “**Culture of Integrity for Nations Prosperity**”, while Advocate Ms. Manakhi Mech highlighted legal aspects of environmental protection. The event, attended by 40 participants.



ICFRE-RFRI observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 Across Centres

Jorhat, October 28, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, began Vigilance Awareness Week (28 October- 3 November 2024) with an ‘Integrity Pledge’ administered by Director Dr. Nitin Kulkarni. Similar ceremonies were held at ICFRE-BRC, Aizawl, and ICFRE-LEC, Agartala. An awareness program on preventive vigilance was conducted by ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, featuring a lecture by Shri Uttam Chakraborty, Senior Accounts Officer, with active participation from forest officials and trainees.





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ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat Celebrates Constitution Day

Jorhat, November 26, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat celebrated Constitution Day with enthusiasm. The event, aimed at honouring the values of the Indian Constitution, included a pledge-taking ceremony led by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of ICFRE-RFRI. Around 90 participants took part in the celebration, reinforcing their commitment to the constitutional principles.



AWARENESS & DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMMES

Students and Teachers from Dolakakharia LP School Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, October 4, 2024: A group of 23 students, accompanied by nine teachers and guardians from Dolakakharia Lower Primary School, Dholajan, Jorhat, Assam, visited the ICFRE- Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI). The visit aimed to inspire young minds and provide insight into the institute's activities.



State-Forest Service Trainees Visit ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 16, 2024: Forty-one State Forest Service Trainees of the 30th Batch (2023-25) from CASFOS, Coimbatore, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the guidance of Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar, IFS. They were welcomed by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, and guided through various R&D activities by Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division.



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Balya Bhawan LP School Visits ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 18, 2024: Fifty students and teachers from Balya Bhawan Lower Primary School, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI to explore its research and development activities. They were guided by Shri Bibhuti Deka, CTO; Shri N.C. Das, TO; Shri B.K. Rajak, TO, and Shri Protul Hazarika, CTO.



M.C. College, Barpeta Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, October 22, 2024: A group of 25 students and three teachers from M.C. College, Barpeta, Assam, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division, welcomed them, and Shri N.C. Das, TO and Shri Bhuvan Kachari, STO, guided the team through the institute's activities.



Mizoram University Students Visit ICFRE-Bamboo & Rattan Centre

Aizawl, November 4, 2024: A group of Sixteen M.Sc. Forestry students and three teachers from Mizoram University visited the ICFRE-Bamboo & Rattan Centre in Aizawl. The educational visit provided insights into bamboo and rattan research and its applications. The students engaged with experts and explored advancements in sustainable forestry practices.



Sibsagar Girls' College Visits ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, November 4, 2024: A group of 42 students accompanied by three teachers from Sibsagar Girls' College, Sivasagar, Assam, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Guided by Shri Bibhuti Deka, CTO, and Shri N.C. Das, TO, the visitors were introduced to various research and development activities of the institute, enhancing their understanding of forestry science and innovation.



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Farmers and Officials from Balipara Foundation Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, Nov 11, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, organized a day-long exposure visit of 11 farmers and officials from Balipara Foundation, Kartik Chapori. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of Extension, welcomed the group, followed by technical presentations by Shri Kumud Borah, STO; and Dr. R.D. Borthakur, CTO; on bamboo nursery and planataion management, preservation, and charcoal production. The visitors also explored the Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, BCC, and VPI facilities.



Sonari College Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, Nov 11, 2024: A group of 28 students and four teachers from Sonari College, Charaideo district, Assam, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, interacted with the students and addressed them. Shri R.K. Kalita, Scientist-F & Head of the Extension Division, provided an overview of the Institute's research and development activities, while Shri Debojit Neog, Senior Technical Officer, guided the group during visit.



ICFRE-RFRI hosts Special Needs Students from Jorhat Schools

Jorhat, November 22, 2024: ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, welcomed 30 children with Special Needs (CWSN) from various schools of Jorhat district as part of an exposure visit under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The students were guided by Shri Nilabh Chandra Das, Ms. Shahnin Islam, Mrs. Ritashree Khanikar, Mrs. Anindita Kalita, Mrs. Gayatree Mahanta, and Shri B.K. Rajak. The visit aimed to promote a unique learning experience to the students.



Students from Twinning Schools Visit ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, Dec 6, 2024: A group of 39 students and six teachers from 113 No. Gharphalia L.P. School, Chenijan, and Sorubupati L.P. School, Kaparadhara, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, under the Twinning of Schools program initiated by the Government of Assam. Shri N.C. Das, Technical Officer, guided the group during the educational visit, introducing them to the institute's research and



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Students of PM Shree KV No. 1 Visit ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, December 6, 2024: A group of 172 students and 12 teachers from PM Shree No.1, Air Force Station, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the Rastriya Avishkar Abhiyan (PM Shree Scheme). Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of Extension Division, welcomed the group and provided an overview of the Institute's research, development, and extension activities. The students were guided by a team of experts, including Shri Akshay Mishra, Shri Nishant Jyoti Saikia, Shri Prasanta Saikia, Shri Kumud Borah, Shri Arabinda Deka, Mrs. Bijumoni Kalita, Shri Bhuban Kachari, and Shri Dulal Borah.



Visit of Students from Sankardev Shishu Vidya Niketan to ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 09, 2024: A group of 43 students and 4 teachers from Sankardev Shishu Vidya Niketan, Melachakar, Sivasagar, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division, welcomed the visitors and engaged in an interaction with them. Shri N.C. Das, Technical Officer, guided the group through the institute's various research and development activities.



Mariani Girls High School Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 9, 2024: 350 girl students from Mariani Girls High School, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the PM Shree Scheme. Guided by institute officials, they explored various research and development activities.

Fechual Jayshree High School Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 12, 2024: 125 students and teachers from Fechual Jayshree High School, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the PM Shree Scheme. They were guided through the institute's research and development activities by Shri Bibhuti Deka, CTO; Shri Bhuban Kachari, STO; and Mrs. Gayatree Mahanta, JPF.



Class IX Students of Fechual Jayshree High School Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, Dec 13, 2024: One hundred ten Class IX students along with teachers from Fechual Jayshree High School, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the PM Shree Scheme. Shri Kumud Borah, STO; Shri N.C. Das, TO; and Shri Bhuban Kachari, STO, guided the group, showcasing the institute's research and development activities.



BRTC Trainees Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 13, 2024: Sixteen students along with faculty members from the Bamboo Research and Training Centre (BRTC), Chandrapur, Maharashtra, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division, welcomed the group and guided them through the institute's bamboo research and development activities.

PM SRI KV Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 17, 2024: As part of an Environmental Awareness Programme, 350 students along with teachers from K.V. Air Force Station, Rowriah, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI- Rain Forest Research Institute under the PM SRI Scheme. Shri Kumud Borah, STO; Shri Bhuban Kachari, STO, Shri Debojit Neog, STO; Shri Bibhuti Deka, CTO; and Mrs. Gayatree Mahanta, JPF guided the group through the institute's research and development activities.



Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI for Environmental Awareness

Jorhat, December 18, 2024: As part of an Environmental Awareness Programme, 500 students and teachers from Mohbondha Tea Garden High School, Mohbondha, and PM SRI KV, Air Force Station, Rowriah, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the PM SRI Scheme. Institute officials, including Shri Kumud Borah, STO; Shri Bhuban Kachari, STO; Shri Deojit Neog, STO; Shri Bibhuti Deka, CTO; Mrs. Gyatree Mahanta, JPF; Shri Francis Nath, and Shri Ashim Chetia, LIA; guided the group through various research and development activities.



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PM SRI KV Students Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 19, 2024: As part of an Environmental Awareness Programme, 300 students and teachers from PM SRI KV, Air Force Station, Rowriah, Jorhat, visited ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute under the PM SRI Scheme. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division, welcomed the group and briefed them on the institute's activities. Some officials of the institute guided the students through various research facilities, including the Insectarium, Botanical Garden, Bambusetum, and Bamboo Composite Centre.



Students from Kuralguri HS School and KV North Lakhimpur Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 20, 2024: One Seventy-one students and teachers from Kuralguri HS School, Golaghat, and KV. North Lakhimpur, visited ICFRE-RFRI under the PM SRI Scheme. Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division, and Shri Debojit Neog, STO, welcomed the group. Officials of the institute guided the students during their visit to various research facilities.



Students from Jorhat Schools Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 24, 2024: Two Sixty-one students along with teachers three schools in Jorhat District- Borkhongia HS School, Pokamura HS School, and Nam Gorumora BB High School, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, as part of the Environmental Awareness Programme. They were guided by Shri N.C. Das, TO; Shri Ashim Chetia, Library Information Assistant, and Mrs. Gyatree Mahanta, JPF, during the visit.

Students from Six Schools from Jorhat Visit ICFRE-RFRI

Jorhat, December 27, 2024: One Seventy-one students and teachers from six schools- Dharmeswar Barua Memorial Sankardeva Sishu Niketan, Dhekorgora, Malow Ali HS School, Jorhat; Baligaon JB Arya Vidyalaya, Jorhat; Duliagaon MV School, Jorhat; Sarojini Devi Balika Uchhatar Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Jorhat; and Samuguria Rajamoidam M E School, Sivasagar, visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, under the Environmental Awareness Programme. The group was guided by Shri N.C. Das, TO, Shri Bhuban Kachari, STO, Shri Ashim Chetia, Shri Francis Nath, Library Information Assistant; and Mrs. Gayatree Mahanta, JPF. The visit was coordinated by Shri R.K. Kalita, Head of the Extension Division.





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Padma Ram Sarma H.S. School students' visit to ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat as Part of Environmental Awareness Programme

Jorhat, December 30, 2024: A group of 267 students and 22 teachers from Padma Ram Sarma H.S. School, Madhapur, Titabar, Jorhat, and Deepjyoti Model School, Haluating, Sivasagar, visited the institute under an Environmental Awareness Programme. Shri Bhuvan Kachari, STO, and Shri Debojit Neog, STO, guided the visitors during their educational tour.



RAJBHASHA ACTIVITIES

Official Language Implementation Committee Meeting Held at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Jorhat, December 30, 2024: The quarterly meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee was held at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, under the chairmanship of Dr. R.K. Bora, Director's Link Officer. A total of six members participated in the meeting, where key discussions were held regarding the effective implementation of the official language policies within the institute.



HUMAN RESOURCE NEWS

Retirement

Shri Protul Hazarika, CTO, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat retired on 31st October, 2024.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH PAPERS



Behera, S., Tandel, M.B., Desai, M.K., Patel, D.P., Garde, Y. A., Ptael, M.M. and Bose, G. (2024). Performance of Different Varieties of Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) under Young Plantation of Gamhar (*Gmelina arborea* Roxb). *Indian Journal of Agroforestry*, 26(2).

Parasriya, R., Tiwari, P., Yadav, Dobariyal, Manmohan., Behera, S., Tamang, S and Prakash. (2024). Economic Evaluation of Mung Bean (*Vigna radiata*) Intercrop within Malabar Neem (*Melia dubia*) Based Agroforestry System in Semi-arid Region of Bundelkhand, India. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 42 (12): 134-139.



BOOK CHAPTERS

Guru, N., Modak, K. and Das, D.J. (2024). Assessing the Susceptibility of Soil Erosion Using Multi- criteria Decision Method in the Dihing Watershed Region, India. In: *Sustainable Land Management in India*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5223-2_13

Modak, K., Guru, N., Mishra, G., Sharma, B. (2024). Role of Traditional Farming Practices of Northeast India in Soil and Water Conservation and Sustainable Nutrient Management. In: *Sustainable Land Management in India*, Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5223-2_10



ABSTRACTS

Published Abstract entitled “Harnessing Nanobiotechnology: Enhancing the properties and applications of Bamboo” authored by Rekha Mahato & Bebija L. Singha “National conference on Women in Biotechnology” at Amity University, Lucknow.

Published Abstract entitled “Microbial Contamination and Hypersensitivity in Bamboo Tissue Culture- A review” authored by Bebija L. Singha, Shikhamoni Borah & Rekha Mahato ‘National conference on Women in Biotechnology’ at Amity University, Lucknow.

Published Abstract entitled “Exploring the role and effects of root system in IR-29 response to salt and allantoin treatments” authored by Rekha Mahato & Tapan Kumar Mondal in ‘Assam Botany Congress (ABC-03) and International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Challenges and opportunities for nature-based solutions at Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam.

Published Abstract entitled “Multiple shoot induction and plant regeneration from axillary buds of *Morus laevis* Wall” authored by Bebija L. Singha & Chayanika Gogoi in ‘National conference on Women in Biotechnology’ at Amity University, Lucknow.

Paper Presented

Presented poster on the topic “Exploring the role and effects of root system in IR-29 response to salt and allantoin treatments” in ‘Assam Botany Congress (ABC-03) and International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Challenges and opportunities for nature-based solutions’ at Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh by Rekha Mahato.

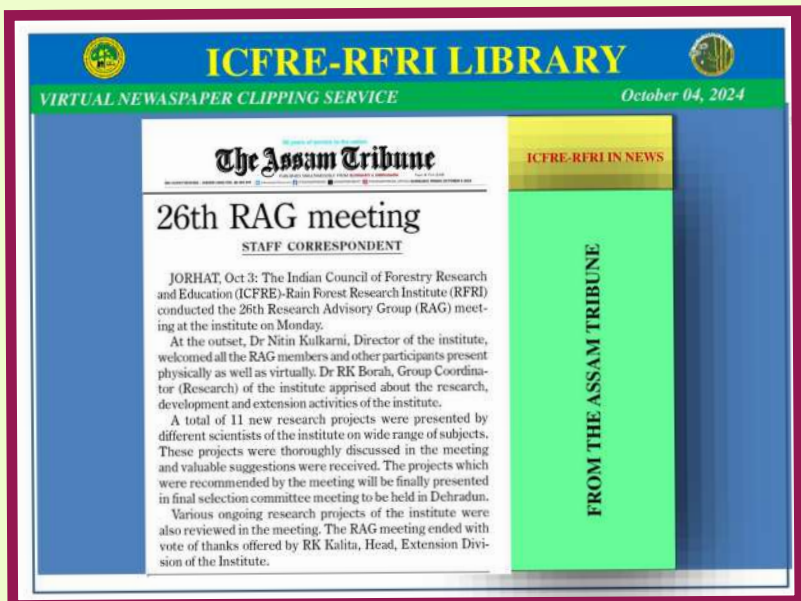
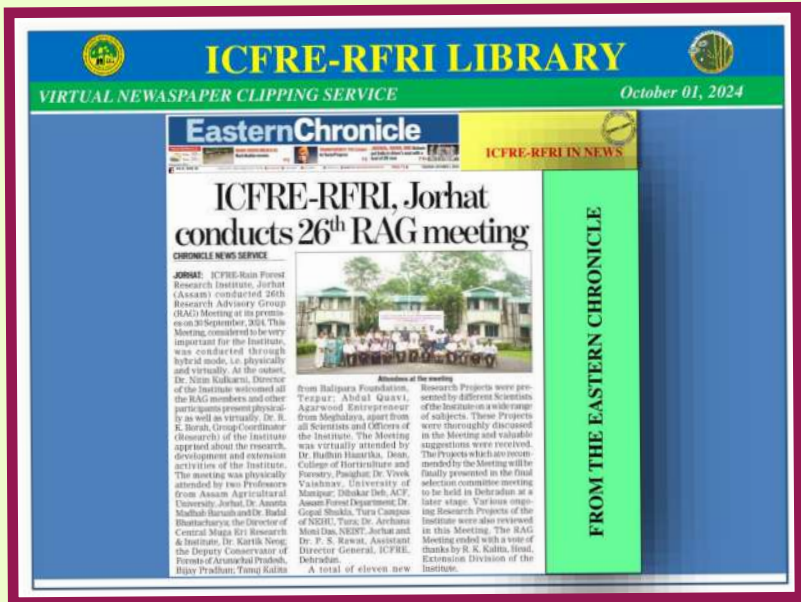


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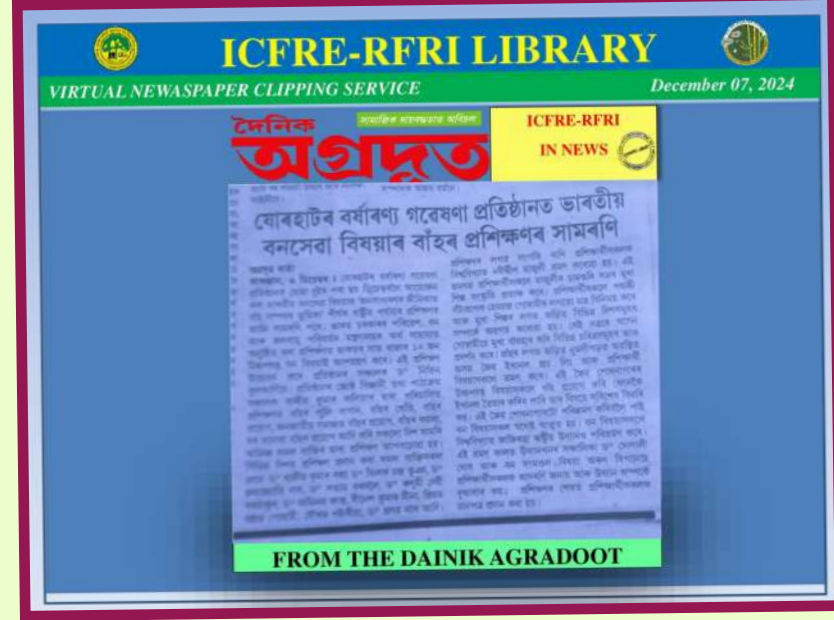


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ICFRE-RFRI IN NEWS





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