CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.   **Scope and organisation of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been created to formulate, organize, direct, and manage forestry research; transfer the technologies developed to States and other user agencies; and impart forestry education.

The objectives of the Council are : (a) to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate forestry education, research and its application, (b) to develop and maintain a National Library and Information Centre for forestry and allied sciences, (c) to act as a clearing-house for research and general information relating to forests and wildlife, (d) to develop forestry extension programmes and propagate the same through mass media, audio-visual aids and extension machinery, (e) to provide consultancy services in the field of forestry research, education and training and in allied sciences and (f) to do other things considered necessary to attain the above objectives.

The council has 8 research institutes and 3 advanced centre in various parts of the country to cater to the research needs of different biogeographical regions of the nation. These are located at Dehradun, Shimla, Allahabad, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Coimbatore. Activities of these centres are described in the following chapters.

2.   **Research initiatives**

Thrust of forestry research is on increasing productivity through genetic and silvicultural improvement, treatment of waste land, conservation of forest ecosystems, wood substitutes, tribal development and social forestry.

A National Forestry Research Plan (NFRP) is being developed after working out due priorities looking to resource constraints. For deciding priorities and resource allotment, Research Advisory Committees have been constituted on which all the States Forest Departments have due representation and say.

Research grants are being provided under World Bank project to Forest Departments, universities, and research organisations in various States. During past two and a half years, Rs. 15.95 crore have been sanctioned for 214 projects.

With a view to increasing availability of high quality planting stock for afforestation/reforestation purpose, funds are being provided to State Government for establishment of seed production areas (SPAs), clonal seed orchards (CSOs), seedling seed orchards (SSOs), and vegetative multiplication gardens (VMGs).

Modern nursery programme is under implementation of which root trainer is an important component. This will revolutionise the production of nursery stock and their establishment and growth in the field.

States can benefit tremendously if they actively and enthusiastically participate in research programmes of ICFRE and avail themselves of research facilities available. These facilities at various institutes of ICFRE are available at affordable cost without much investment. This includes use of very sophisticated instruments installed by ICFRE, which States can not afford to install.

Sponsored research is also accepted by ICFRE.

3.   **Transfer of technology (Extension activities)**

There is tremendous scope for State Governments, forest based industries, unemployed youth and other user agencies to make use of environmental friendly technologies developed by ICFRE to generate wealth. These technologies will also go a long way in conserving forest resources and biodiversity of the country.

At present, 34 (thirty four) tested technologies are available for transfer. Seven of these technologies relate to use of secondary plantation species raised under agroforestry/social forestry, 3 for value addition to products, 13 to improving forest productivity, 7 to new product/substitution of scarce products, and 4 to environmental conservation/reclamation.

Besides, ICFRE is helping States in adopting these technologies by financing projects based on these technologies under Extension Support Fund. These projects include demonstration of technology and training of users and unemployed youth to create entrepreneurship.

As of now, the States do not have viable extension set up. It will be imperative for them to give adequate attention to this aspect to develop extension infrastructure and provide benefit of research findings to public.

National Forest Library and Information Centre (NFLIC) under ICFRE is storehouse of knowledge and provides the same to State Forest Departments, universities, etc. through the electronic networking.

4.   **Forestry Education**

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education is imparting forestry education and developing forestry curricula at various levels to accelerate the pace of research and to provide expertise in different fields of forestry research.

In consonance with National Forest Policy of 1988, the syllabi of the post graduate courses of universities are being studied to evolve a model syllabus.

Universities providing forestry education are being given grants-in-aid for strengthening their infrastructure and technical capabilities. The total grants-in-aid given to various universities between 1990-91 to 1996-97 stands at Rs. 644.50 lakh.

Opportunities are being provided for furthering the academic advancement of Foresters/Scientists and others in the field of forestry. Currently nearly 300 persons are registered with the FRI-DU for their Ph.D. degree. The number of SRF, JRF, and RA's is 30, 192 and 50 respectively.

The Council is running two post graduate degree courses of two year duration in "Forestry (Economics & Management)" and "Wood Science & Technology". In addition, two post graduate diploma courses of one year duration in "Paper & Pulp Technology" and "Plantation Technology" are available.

Overseas training courses are being organised for Foresters/Scientists in the latest research methods in the field of forestry in association with international agencies like the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, IRDC, USDA etc.

Training programmes at the national level are also being organised on topical issues like Research Management, Human Resource Development, Computer Skills and Research Methodology.