

PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP

ON

SILVICULTURAL MANAGEMENT OF PHASI (*ANOGEISSUS ACUMINATA*) IN ODISHA

Institute of Forest Productivity Ranchi has organized a “Peer Review Workshop on Silvicultural Management of Phasi (*Anogeissus acuminata*) in Odisha” on 26th March 2014 at Bhubaneswar with support from Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Ghatikia, and Bhubaneswar. The workshop was attended by 45 participants including senior forest officials, field foresters, experts, farmers, forest protection committee members and team scientists involved in implementation of the project sponsored by OFSDP.



Sh. Vinod Kumar, Project Director, OFSDP inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address he appreciated the efforts of IFP Ranchi in successful implementation of the project and hoped that various novel endeavours of the project such as development of local volume table, identification of candidate plus tress and standardization of clonal procedures for Phasi (*Anogeissus acuminata*) will go a long way for conservation, improvement and sustainable utilization of this important tree revered for its use in making chariots wheels in famous Puri Rathyatra of Lord Jaggannath. However, he advised the forest department to come forward and adopt the new techniques whole-heartedly.

Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist E and Head, FPMB Division, and Principal Investigator made a detailed presentation on the various activities undertaken in the two years study in 8 divisions across Odisha. Dr. Singh informed that 106 plantations were analyzed in the process of making a local volume table for the species which indicates

that the new plantations established by the department will take around 40-45 years to reach the desirable dimensions for utilization in rathayatra. The procedure of identification of 20 CPTs in natural forests was also discussed along with establishment of germplasm banks, VMG and clonal multiplication techniques developed.

Dr. Rajiv Pandey, Asso. Professor HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar and Consultant delivered on intricacies of developing appropriate local volume equations in varying scenarios. Dr. Pandey opined that sufficient data was recorded and utilized in the preparation of local volume table for *Anogeissus acuminata*. However, lack of continuous year wise plantation data for all the Divisions makes the work difficult.



This followed presentation on management of Phasi tree banks and plantations by Dr. K. P. Singh, Scientist, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and Investigator. The studies carried out by Dr. K. P. Singh busted the myth that *Anogeissus acuminata* does not have any serious insect and disease threat. He informed the house about nursery, plantation and storage pests of the species including some new records in the country.

Brainstorming session on future strategies of Phasi conservation, utilization and management was also held in which the forest officials shared their experiences on the phasi management. Positive and animated discussions took place among the participants. Interaction with the project team cleared the doubts raised by them on various issues. Finally in the plenary session following points were recommended:

- Similar work should be carried out on other species utilized for specific purposes in the Jaggannath Rath yatra such Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Moi (*Lannea corommondalica*), Simili (*Bombax ceiba*), Sal

(*Shorea robusta*), Kansa (*Hymenodictyon orixense*), Paladhua (*Erythrina indica*), Mahalimba (*Ailanthus excelsa*), Gambhari (*Gmelina arborea*), Kadamba (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Kalachua (*Diospyros sylvatica*), and Devadaru (*Polyalthia longifolia*).

- Germplasm banks should be established in different divisions incorporating the material from selected CPTs by the Institute.
- The use clonal technique should promote for plantation uniformity and quality. The Institute should provide detail prescriptions and handholding the Odisha Forest department for the purpose.
- Tree improvement work needs to be intensified in the *Anogeissus acuminata*. Selection should also focus natural phasi areas apart from the eight divisions where study was undertaken.
- Early selection work should be initiated in the plantations which have reached half of the suggested harvesting age of 40-45 years by IFP Ranchi.

Project team members Sh. R. Ranjan, Sh. S. N. Mishra and Sh. R. S. Prasad were also present in the meeting. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. K. P. Singh.

