

## Meeting with Shri Arjun Munda, Chief Minister, Jharkhand of Dr V K Bahuguna IFS Director General, ICFRE & Chancellor FRI University, Dehradun

Dr. VK Bahuguna met with Shri Arjun Munda, Chief Minister, Jharkhand during his four days visit to Jharkhand. He intimated the Chief Minister about various ICFRE initiatives on forestry research, livelihood promotion programmes, sustainable management of NTFPs, scientific cultivation of Lac in the state of Jharkhand. He appraised the CM regarding capacity building and livelihood improvement programmes being implemented under UNDP project on Community based natural resource management. Dr. Bahuguna requested for ensured electricity for forest research centre Mander under institute of forest Productivity, Ranchi so that society can get maximum benefit from the unit set about 25 Km from Ranchi. The chief Minister advised the DG that while implementing research and extension programmes special natural and ecological conditions of the state should be kept in the mind and Forest Fringe Villagers should be given priority in such schemes. He said support from state government will always be there for the Council in general and local institute i.e. IFP, Ranchi. Sh Rameshwar Das, Director IFP Ranchi also accompanied Dr. Bahuguna during the meeting and briefed about the institutes endeavours in Biodiversity Conservation and community mobilization in its protection.



Earlier, Dr. Bahuguna addressed a press conference on initiatives of ICFRE in forestry research at Hotel Redisson Blu in Ranchi. The Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education will develop medicinal plants in Jharkhand in a scientific way to help market them properly. This will help tribals who use these plants to cure illness and also for business purpose. More than five to ten species of medicinal plants will be studied under the programme. It is a national research programme that will target several states, Dr. Bahuguna said. "We aim to help tribals get more livelihood opportunities by supporting their endeavour with scientific research and

promotion. The demand for medicinal plants is also growing “ he added. Technology should be used to empower tribal farmers. If tribals are provided with superior planting technology, it can change their lives. The ICFRE has recently launched innovative scheme Direct to Consumer for immediate transfer of technology on completion of a research project for effective transfer of technology developed by scientists. Tribals living in forests play a crucial role in its development. There is a need to properly study the dynamics of change and make plans accordingly; he said adding that forest development will mitigate the impact of climate change. Tribals have good knowledge of medicinal plants and their utility in curing diseases “ICFRE director general Dr Bahuguna said adding so we have decided to identify 10-12 plant species used by tribal people.



Bahuguna expressed his concerns over global warming and climate change. Scientists are carrying out research works on climate change. But one this for sure, people has been affected owing to the prolonged stretches of summer and winter, he said. He also stressed the need for plantation and conservation of water to boost agriculture productivity. Bahuguna was impressed with some farmers who had taken to cultivation of lac for their livelihood. Local farmers have now understood that instead of felling trees, it is wiser to use them for their own advantage. Cultivating lac has yield up to Rs. 92000/- per annum to some farmers in Khunti, He said.



Earlier Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, laid foundation stone of IFP Ranchi's 'Training, Education and Extension Building' and Interpretation Centre for Lead Garden at Lalgutwa. The Lead Garden established Under Ministry of environment and Forest, Government of India for conservation of rare and endangered plant species of Chotanagpur region was also inaugurated by Dr. Bahuguna.

Dr. Bahuguna released a booklet on "Prospects and potential of *Moringa oleifera* (Sahjan)" written by IFP Scientists and informed that Bihar government is going for large scale Sahjan plantation under "Hariyali Mission" recognizing IFP Ranchi efforts. Dr. Bahuguna stated that he hope that ICFRE will continue to attain greater heights with the help and cooperation of all the members of society.

