

Forest Scientists training at IFP, Ranchi for revival of lac cultivation in India

It is well known fact that lac is the only valuable forest produce where India is the leading producer and exporter of world lac requirement. But over the years due to constant decrease in lac production at national level, the country is unable to meet the increasing demand of lac produce of national as well as international market. The decrease in production of lac has also badly affected the livelihood of the lac farmers as well as workers at the lac production unit. Thus, in order to address this problem and promote lac cultivation at different part of the country, a three days training on "Scientific Lac Cultivation and Management" was organized at the Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi w.e.f. 17th August 2012 to 19th August 2012. The training program was the brain child of Dr V K Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun, who had taken special interest for the conduction of this training program, to promote lac cultivation and in turn increase the production level of lac at national level as well as overall improvement in the rural livelihood especially of forest fringe villagers of the country. Researchers from across all the institutes of ICFRE attended the training programme.

The training was inaugurated by Shri Rameswar Das, Director, IFP Ranchi. Shri Das introduced the institute and different activities going on in the institute. The Director stated that India is conventionally stronghold of lac production country in the world but in recent year lac cultivation and production in the country has declined considerably due to unavailability of healthy broodlac, lack of knowledge of modern cultivation practices and changing climatic conditions. He emphasized upon the use of improved scientific method of lac cultivation and establishment of broodlac farm in different regions of the country to improve the lac production.



Dr. Arvind Kumar, Head, Forest Protection Division and course coordinator briefed about the technical programme of the training. He introduced the lac and lac producing insect, its biology, reproduction, host plants and pest and predators and requested the delegates to actively interact with the resource persons including Dr. A. Bhattacharya, Principal scientist and Dr. S.Ghosal from IINRG, Namkum.

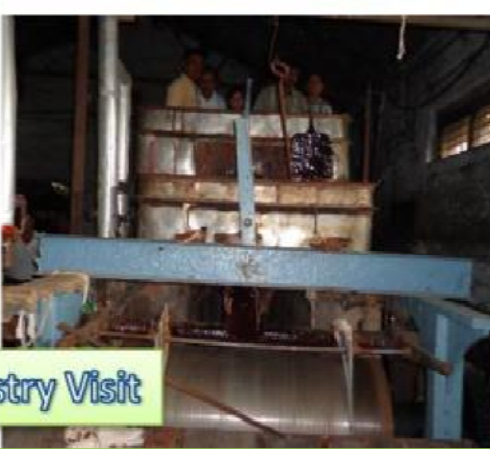
The training consists of a wholesome mix of extensive classroom lectures and field demonstrations on importance and management of lac host plants; healthy broodlac production, management and its importance in lac production. Cultivation practices of lac rearing on a new emerging and promising bushy *Flemingia semialata* host plant and *kusumi* lac cultivation on kusum and rangeeni strains of lac production has been discussed in detail along with insect pests, parasite and diseases causing damage to the lac and their

management. In addition, training incorporates cost of inputs in lac rearing on different host plant and comparative economics benefits, uses of lac, product development, value addition and marketing.

A field visit was organized for the trainees to give them onsite exposure about lac cultivation. The trainees had active interaction with the tribal farmers about various practices of lac cultivation. During field visit, trainees were also taken to Tajna, Shella Private Limited, a private lac production unit at Khunti, to give them exposure on processing and production of lac. The trainees had very useful and interactive session with Roshan Lal Sharma, Director, Tajna Shellac Pvt Ltd, about processing and production of lac; starting from procurement of raw material, its refinement, the finished product and finally the marketing. He also told trainees about the importance, industry level uses, demand and supply of lac at global level.

IFP scientists' namely Dr Sharad Tiwari, Head, Extension Division, Dr Sanjay Singh, Head Silviculture & NWFP Division, Dr Animesh Sinha, Head, Genetics & Tree Improvement Division, Shri Aditya Kumar, Scientists "B" and Shri Pankaj Singh, Research Officer also contributed significantly in the training program.





Shellac Industry Visit

