

## **Inauguration of Advanced Research Centre for Bamboo & Rattan, Aizawl, Mizoram**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Lal Thanhawla inaugurated the new building complex of Advance Resource Centre for Bamboo & Rattan on March 16, 2012 at Bethlehem Venthlang, Aizawl, Mizoram in a glittering function in presence of Pu S. Hiato, Minister for Industries, Govt. of Mizoram and Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE. Other Dignitaries who were present on the occasion included Dr. R. Lalthantlunanga, Vice Chancellor, Mizoram University; Pu R. Vanchhawang, Addl. PCCF, Mizoram; Pu L. R. Thanga, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mizoram; Sri R. Deori, Superintending Engineer, CPWD, Officers of other Central/State Government Departments etc.

Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE received the Hon'ble Chief Minister with a bouquet of flower. Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed all guests present in the inaugural ceremony and felicitated distinguished guests at the Dias with traditional *phulam gamosa*. The function began with a Welcome Song performed by Young Mizo Association, Bawngkawn Branch. Ms Imtienla Ao, Director, ARCBR presented a brief account of ARCBR from its inception from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2004. She showed various infrastructure facilities including Office-cum-Research building, Residential Accommodations, Farmers Hostel/Guest House, Nursery, and Laboratory through her power point presentation.

Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE while speaking on the occasion, sought the active support and cooperation from all the academic, governmental, non-governmental institutions for better collaborations in R & D activities with ARCBR. He appealed the Hon'ble Chief Minister to extend all possible support so that ARCBR could be upgraded to a full-fledged institute. He pointed out few areas where ARCBR would work like NTFP, ecotourism, floriculture, biodiversity assessment apart from working on Bamboo and Rattan.

Dr. R. Lalthantlunanga, Vice Chancellor, Mizoram University put emphasis on R & D activities which have much practical significance to the region. He expressed his desire to provide all possible help to utilize the research facilities at Mizoram University to ARCBR.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Lal Thanhawla while delivering the inaugural speech, considered the inauguration of ARCBR as a landmark for the State of Mizoram. He spoke about the importance of bamboo for the economic development of the people of the State. His government has started planning to revolutionize the rural economy by working on bamboo and rattan under New Land Use Programme (NLUP) implemented in the State. He

admitted that Mizoram has 92% greenery with only 2% forest. Bamboo would play deciding role in afforestation under NLUP. He expressed his government's commitment to extend all round support to develop ARCBR into a very high level R & D institution in the region.

Sri R. K. Kalita offered the Vote of Thanks. The Hon'ble Chief Minister and other dignitaries inspected new building, laboratory facilities, residential buildings, farmers' hostel/ guest house etc.

#### Other engagements of Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE during his visit to Aizawl, Mizoram

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE after arrival at Lengpui Airport, Mizoram visited two bamboo industries i.e. Zonun Mat Ply (P) Ltd., Lengpui and Venus Industry, Sairang, which are manufacturing various high value products from bamboo as well as wood. Zonun Mat Ply (P) Ltd., Lengpui exclusively producing bamboo based products such as Bamboo Mat Board, Bamboo Dap Weaved Board, Decorated Ceiling Board, Bamboo Fibre Board, Bamboo Chequered Board etc. Venus Industry, Sairang has been manufacturing high value products from bamboo and wood.

He also visited the modern nursery of State Forest Department at Sairang. He also inspected the nursery created by Van Vigyan Kendra of Mizoram under the financial assistance of ICFRE.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, Dr. V. K. Bahuguna visited Mizoram University and took part in an interaction session with faculty members and researchers. Dr. R. Lalthantlunanga, Vice Chancellor, Mizoram University welcomed Dr. Bahuguna and introduced him to the academic fraternity of his University. Dr. Bahuguna released a book entitled '*Forest Resources of Mizoram: Conservation and management*' along with another book entitled '*Plants of Mizoram University Campus, Aizawl Mizoram*' by Dr. R. Lalthantlunanga.

Diverse issues were discussed during the interaction with faculty members, scholars, students and other officials. The DG sought support and cooperation of the University in areas such as assessment of NTFPs, bamboo tissue culture, floriculture, sharing of lab spaces and instruments etc. He put emphasis on developing network projects with ARCBR. In this regard, he instructed Ms. Imtienla Ao, Director, ARCBR to formulate a Concept Note and to be submitted to him by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April, 2012. He also requested the Vice Chancellor to apply for Accreditation of the University by ICFRE.

The DG had discussions with all the Staff members and Scientists. He patiently heard their issues and encouraged to with full dedication and spirit.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 the DG held an in-house discussion with the Scientists and Officers of RFRI and ARCBR. Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI; Ms. Imtienla Ao, Director, ARCBR; Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI; Sri P. K. Kaushik, Scientist, RFRI; Dr. N. Ravi, Scientist, RFRI; Sri Hansraj, Scientist, ARCBR; Sri P. K. Meena ARCBR; Sri G. Banerjee, DCF, RFRI; Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, RO, RFRI and Sri B. Deka, RO, ARCBR were present in the discussion.

Following points were discussed during the discussion:

- Making a project on survey of regeneration status of *Melocana baccifera* in Mizoram. Modalities are to be finalized and consultation with SFD, Mizoram and Mizoram University.
- An assessment study on Non Timber Forest Produce to be made in coordination with RFRI and Mizoram University.
- Coffee Book on Biodiversity of North East to be prepared.
- An 'Expression of Interest' is to be published in local newspaper of Mizoram/NE for seeking consultation work at ARCBR on different disciplines
- Creation of a new Centre at Tripura on Eco-tourism and Forestry Extension
- Establishment of Bamboo Museum at RFRI
- Study the status of Farm Forestry in Assam and Tripura
- Study the model of tree based agroforestry system for shifting cultivation areas



**Banquet Hall waiting to receive the distinguished guests**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE, Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI and others waiting to receive the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE receiving the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram**



**Pu Lal Thanhawla, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram inaugurating the ARCBR Complex**



**Dignitaries in the Dias**



**Welcome Song performed by Young Mizo Association Choir, Bawngkawn Branch**



Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI felicitates the Guests with traditional *Phulam Gamosa*



Sri N. K. Vasu, Director, RFRI delivering welcome address



Ms. Imtienla Ao, Director, ARCBR presenting a brief account of the Centre



Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE addressing in the gathering





**Ms. Maggie presenting a special item number**



**Mr. Andrew presenting a special item number**



**Pu Lal Thanhawla, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram delivering his inaugural address**



**Pu S. Hiato, the Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Mizoram delivering his speech**



**Pu L. R. Thanga, the Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram giving his speech**



**Pu R. Lalthantlunga, Vice Chancellor, Mizoram University delivering his speech**



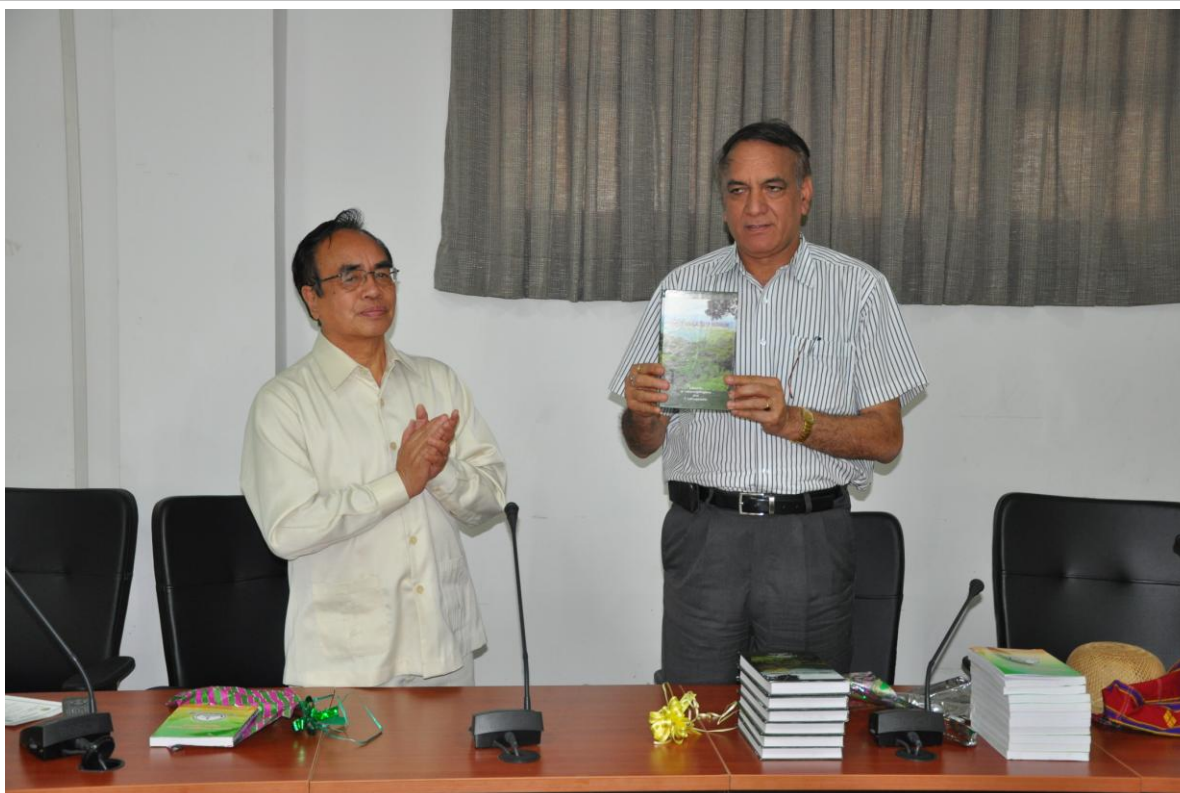
**Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI delivering Vote of Thanks**



**Pu Lal Thanhawla, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram inspecting the ARCBR Building Complex**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE was welcomed by the VC**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE released a book**



**Sri N. K. Vasu being received with traditional gift by the VC**



**Ms. Imtienla Ao being received with traditional gift by the VC**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE taking part in the interactive session**



**A section of Faculty members, researchers and others**







**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna at Nursery of Van Vigyan Kendra, Sairang, Mizoram**



**Dr. V. K. Bahuguna interacting with senior forest officers at Nursery, Sairang**



**New Institute building**



**New Institute building**