

**REPORT ON THE VISIT OF DR. V.K. BAHUGUNA, DG, ICFRE AND SHRI OMKAR
SINGH, DDG (EDUCATION) TO SWEDEN AND USA DURING 18TH APRIL to 2ND
MAY, 2012**

The Director General, ICFRE and Deputy Director General (Education) visited Swedish Forest Agency, Stockholm & Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) Uppsala, in Sweden and Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute & World Bank, Washington, Colorado State University (SLU), Fort Collins, University of California, Berkeley in USA to oversee training facilities of ongoing MCT Phase-III and to see possibilities of bilateral cooperation in the field of forestry and forestry research, student & faculty exchange programme, capacity building, exploring possibilities of assistance from World Bank in the area of forestry research.

In Sweden, on 19th April, 2012 DG, ICFRE and DDG (education) made a visit to the Ministry of Rural Affairs. Marcus Ohman, Senior Administrative Officer of the Ministry made a brief presentation on the role & structure of the Ministry and the challenges facing by them on the forestry issues. Marcus Ohman informed that the Sweden has 29 million hac. of forest, out of the total 41 million hac. of its land area. The Sweden has about 70% forest cover and the ratios of public and private forest are 27% and 73%. The total population is about 9.2 million. The annual increment of Swedish forest is around 110 million cum, out of which around 80 million cum is harvested. Forest contributes to 13% of export earnings. The main forestry species are spruce, scot pine and birch. Thereafter, we met with Dr Monika Stridsman, Director General, Swedish Forest Agency & Peter Blomback, Head Forest Policy and Analysis and expert Hillevi Eriksson, SLU. Peter Blomback made a small presentation and gave introduction to the working of Swedish Forest Agency and major changes in the Swedish forestry sector and forest energy issues. The DG, ICFRE also explained the structure, mandate and programmes of the ICFRE. The DG, Swedish Forest Agency (SFA) informed that the Sweden has a collaborative project with Russia on Landscape approach and was of the view that the ICFRE and SFA can work on creating a Demonstration Forest to

increase the productivity of Indian forest in the form of a project. The meeting was coordinated by Dr. Surendra Joshi, of Swedish Forest Agency.



Meeting with Marcus Ohman, M/o Rural Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden



DG, ICFRE with Dr Monika Stridsman, DG Swedish Forest Agency during discussion at Stockholm



Presenting Memento to DG, SLU

DG, ICFRE also met with Dr. Lisa Sennerby forsee, Vice Chancellor, Senior Advisor, Esleen Audeason, Vice Dean, Dr Jonas Ronnberg, Prof. Goran Stahl, Vice Rector, Prof. Arvid Uggla, Director and the Dr. Sara Edfast (on video conferencing) Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) at Uppsala on 20th April. Dr. Jonas Ronnberg, made a brief presentation on role and research areas of SLU and Faculty of Forest Sciences. During the discussion, it was decided to explore the possibilities of bilateral collaboration/ cooperation between ICFRE & SLU for students and faculty and research exchange programme. It was also desired by the SLU to continue the partnership for next MCT programme. To begin with the SLU will explore the funding from SIDA for travel expenses for Sweden and Indian officials for prioritizing cooperation subjects and approaches. DG, ICFRE addressed the IFS officers and obtained their feedback after the training programme. The programme was coordinated by Esbjorn Andersson, SLU.



Meeting with the Dr. Lisa Sennerby forsee, Vice Chancellor, SLU, & other officials at Uppsala



During the visit to Washington from 22nd to 24th April in USA, DG, ICFRE and DDG (Education) visited the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and World Bank. In the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Dr. Mahendra Shrestha, Programme Director, Mr Jone, Wildlife expert and other officers explained about the working of the Institute and the activities being undertaken in the National Zoological Park. The total area of the Park is 1240 acres and the entry to the museums and Zoo is free. The park is named after the name of British National, Smithsonian. The Institute provides training to various protected area management personnel. It is observed that good work is being done for the management of museums and Zoo by the National Zoological Park. There is a possibility to have cooperation on capacity building /training programme for the officers/researchers on biodiversity issues. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Mahendra Shrestha.



Meeting at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Washington

The next meeting was held at World Bank. on 24th April. Dr. Gerhard Dicterle, Forestry Advisor, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank gave a brief presentation on assistance provided by the World Bank to the various countries on forestry and forestry research activities and introduced with their officers. He informed that 30 officials are working in the forestry wing of the World Bank. More than 15 experts on different fields attended the meeting. A presentation on Forest Management in India, Challenges and opportunities was made by Dr. V. K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE. The main issues discussed were livelihood issues, climate change & REDD+, Rural based landscape approach and the capacity building. A lively discussion was followed for about 2 hrs. Dr. Gerhard

Dicterle, Forestry Advisor appreciated the applied research work being done by the ICFRE and desired to visit the council in near future for discussion especially on forestry Research, livelihood issues, Climate change & REDD+ and capacity building programme. He impressed upon the need for the World Bank to again contribute in the development of forest sector in India.



DG, ICFRE meeting with Dr. Gerhard Dicterle, Forestry Advisor & other officials at World Bank



DG, ICFRE presenting memento to Dr. Gerhard Dicterle, Forestry Advisor, World Bank

The team left for Denver on 25th April. In the Colorado State University in Fort Collins, the DG, ICFRE and DDG (Education) met with Michael J. Manfredo, Head, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and other officers of the Department and Dr. Joyce Berry, Dean of the University at Fort Collins. Dr. Joyce Berry & Michael J. Manfredo gave a brief on the work being done by them especially in the PA Management, Man

Animal Conflict and Eco-tourism. Dr. Joyce Berry, Dean desired to have bilateral collaboration on the capacity building of Researchers/Scientists and Students exchange programme. All of them have also shown their keen willingness to continue the MCT programme of IFS and also desired collaboration with ICFRE on sharing the research experience. The DG, ICFRE interacted with IFS officers and obtained their feedback. He also distributed certificate to the participants. The team was shown the management of Rocky Mountain National park by the Park authorities. It is observed that there is heavy attack of beetles in the scot pine forest in the Rocky Mountain Park due to which scot pine trees are seen dying. On enquiry, it was informed that due climate change effect i.e. heavy precipitation, the beetle population is multiplied which may be the reason of beetle attack on scot pine trees.



DG,ICFRE meeting with Michael J. Manfredo, Head, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and other officers & Dr. Joyce Berry, Dean of the University at CSU, Fort Collins



DG,ICFRE & DDG (Education) with Dr. Tara Teel at CSU Campus



A view of Rocky Mountain National park



Dr. Neil addressing IFS Officers at the Park



DG, ICFRE distributing certificates to IFS officers

The team arrived in San Francisco on 27th April to oversee the research work on forest fires in California as the state had witnessed several forest fires in the recent years. The DG, ICFRE and DDG (Education) also visited the University of California Barkeley. Mr. Bill Stewart, forestry specialist, Deptt. of Env. Science, policy and management explained the works being carried by their Deptt. specially on forest fires and the methods of forest fires control. He informed that their main focus is on research on prevention of forest fires, the training programme is carried by another independent wing of the University. The possibilities may be explored to depute the officers/researchers for the exposure on fire control works being undertaken by the forest managers.



DG, ICFRE with Bill Stewart, forestry specialist
University of California Barkeley