

**MINUTES OF THE XXIII RAG MEETING**  
**(21<sup>st</sup> September 2017)**

**ORGANIZED BY**  
**FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
**DEHRADUN**

## Proceedings of the XXIII RAG of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

The meeting of XXIII RAG of the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017 in the Board Room of FRI. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Savita, Director, Forest Research Institute and was attended by the following members of RAG-

SL.	Name	Designation & Organization
1.	Dr. Savita	Director, FRI
2.	Dr. B P Purohit	Joint Director, UCOST, Dehradun
3.	Dr. Pawan Kumar,	PCCF (R & T), Kanpur Research Institute
4.	Dr. Charan Singh	Principal Scientist, IISWC, Kaulagarh, Dehradun
5.	Dr. S. D . Bhardwaj	Ex. Dean Forestry, Solan University
6.	Dr. Anil Kumar Hooda	APCCF, Haryana
7.	Shri. B P Gupta	CCF Research, Haldwani, Uttarakhand
8.	Shri. Saurabh Gupta	CCF (FC), Punjab Forest Department
9.	Dr. Vimal Kothiyal	ADG (RP), ICFRE
10.	Dr. M. Yousuf	Scientist-G, Entomology Division
11.	Shri. S. D. Sharma	Head, SFM Division
12.	Dr. R Thanga Pandiyan	Assistant Silviculturist, FRI
13.	Shri. Anjan Singh	DFO, Training Division, Hoshiarpur, Punjab
14.	Dr. Maneesh Bhandari	Scientist - C, G & TP Division, FRI
15.	Shri. Trilok Singh Bisht	Founder BGS (NGO)
16.	Shri. Mam Raj Farmer	Farmer from Village Thaska, Haryana
17.	Shri. Vijay Jardari	Convener of Beej Bachao Aandolan
18.	Dr. N. K. Upreti	Group Coordinator (Research), FRI

The Director FRI welcomed the honorable members of RAG. Dr. Dr. N.K. Upreti, Group Coordinator (Research) briefed about the procedures and importance of the RAG in prioritizing the project proposals to be recommended for presentation before RPC.

A total of 13 new proposals and 1 rolling plan project were discussed in the meeting. The project wise recommendations are given as following:

S. N.	Title of Project proposal	PI	RAG's recommendations
<b>Thrust area I- Managing Forests and Forests Products for Livelihood Support and Economic Growth</b>			
1.	Application of Bio-based Polymeric Blends as Strength Additives for Papermaking	Dr. Vikas Rana,	Recommended for RPC

2.	Development of online Plantation Management System	Neelesh Yadav,	<p>Recommended for RPC with following suggestions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether parameters/fields are available to conclude the authenticity/applicability of project- need to be examined</li> <li>• Criteria and indicator for selection of species to be planted in particular areas need to finalized critically</li> <li>• Initially, data for plantation management may be taken for specific zone/land use pattern at smaller scale to have authentic database</li> <li>• Punjab may be taken up on pilot basis initially</li> </ul>
3.	Research and demonstration on high-density plantation system for fuel and fodder production	Dr. Dinesh Kumar,	<p>Recommended for RPC with following suggestions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology to be detailed</li> <li>• Number of species may be reduced to two only</li> <li>• Potential for pulp and paper, particle board, MDF and calorific value of the species selected for the study may also be examined</li> <li>• Manpower and budget should be increased accordingly</li> <li>• Project may be prepared for phase-I extendable for doing work in Phase-II</li> </ul>
4.	Study on the suitability of <i>Melia azedarach</i> as a finger jointed wood alternative timber	Dr. Sachin Gupta	<p>Recommended for RPC with following suggestions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Melia dubia</i> may be taken up in place of <i>Melia azedarach</i> for the study</li> <li>• Project duration may be reduced to two years</li> <li>• Provision of AMC for instrument may be kept in FRE</li> </ul>

5.	Management of Economically important Plantation of <i>Melia dubia</i> for improving yield and growth.	Dr. Ved Pal	Recommended for RPC with following suggestions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology should be modified as per discussions</li> <li>• Aspect of Carbon sequestration potential of the species may also be incorporated</li> </ul>
6.	Livelihood improvement through Promotion and utilization of fiber from existing population of <i>Grewia optiva</i> (bhimal) in Uttarakhand	Dr. Devendra Kumar	Recommended for RPC with following suggestions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The procedure proposed for extraction of fiber must be cost effective and eco friendly</li> <li>• Microbial intervention to extract the fiber may also be explored</li> <li>• Potential for preparation of shampoo may also be incorporated</li> </ul>
<b>Thrust Area II- Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Security</b>			
1	Molecular Phylogenetic study of Indian Meliaceae	Dr. Anup Chandra	Recommended for RPC
2	Investigations on the Mortality of <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> in Nandadevi Biosphere Reserve	Dr. Shailesh Pandey	Recommended for RPC with following suggestions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The title may be changed as Mortality of <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> in Nandadevi Biosphere Reserve</li> <li>• Attempt to examine mortality of <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> in relation to meteorological data (last 15 years)</li> </ul>
3.	Nursery diseases of Oak and their management	Ranjana Juwantha	Recommended for RPC.

4.	Microbial consortia for Forestry Inoculation and Performance	Dr. Vipin Prakash	Recommended for RPC
5.	Identification and Characterization of important bacterial groups from salt affected soils of Haryana and Punjab	Dr. Parul Bhatt Kotiyal	Recommended for RPC with following suggestion- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work done by <i>Central Soil Salinity Research Institute</i>, Karnal may reviewed/consulted to avoid the duplication of the work before finalizing the project</li> </ul>
6.	Biodiversity study and geo-referencing of pteromalid parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) of Uttarakhand	Dr. Arvind Kumar,	Recommended for RPC with following suggestion- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of District, ecological zone may be taken as unit for the study.</li> </ul>
7.	Studies on diversity and host range of hymenopteran egg parasitoids from northern India (Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand)	Dr. Mohd. Yousuf,	Recommended for RPC with following suggestions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study should be undertaken in Haryana, UP and Uttarakhand</li> <li>Budget in Travel and FRE may be increased.</li> </ul>

One rolling research plan pertaining to one ongoing project was also discussed-

S. N.	Title of ongoing project	PI	Changes proposed by PI	RAG's recommendation
1.	Clonal propagation of newly developed superior hybrid/genotypes of <i>Eucalyptus</i> and their deployment in the field	Dr. Maneesh Bhandari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New title: Deployment of <i>Eucalyptus</i> genotypes in the field and Hybridity testing through molecular markers</li> <li>• Increase in project period from existing three years to five years</li> <li>• New Budget outlay of Rs. 37.57 Lakh</li> <li>• Improved short term objectives</li> </ul>	Recommended for RPC

The progress of 17 ongoing plan projects was also presented by the respective HoDs. All the ongoing plan projects were recommended to continue as per their approved plan. List of patents file, technologies developed, and papers published in Journals of International and National repute was also shown to members of the RAG.

Suggestions of RAG Chairperson and Members are:-

1. Problems of farmers and local community should be addressed on priority and outcome of the research should be disseminated to the stake holders in Hindi.
2. All State related problems and research projects formulated thereupon may be submitted to concerned States for funding under CAMPA.
3. Value addition to Chir pine cones and seeds and other value added products of the species should be explored.
4. Research on honey bee may be taken up for improving the population of bees and quality of honey in forest as well as human habitations located nearby to support livelihood.
5. New intake of Scientists and Research Officers should be regularized effectively so that new brain could be infused before retirement of senior scientists.

The Director FRI also apprised the house that a Forestry Helpline has been made functional in the institute to entertain the queries/problems raised by the farmers/SFDs and other stake holders pertaining to the forestry related issues and suggest solutions for the same. This was appreciated by one and all present in the meeting.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Director FRI.