

Report of the Meeting held on 4th January, 2019 in FRI, Dehradun for finalization of Calendar of Activities 2018-2019 under "PRAKRITI" Programme in accordance with MoU signed between ICFRE and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

The forests and environment are the lifeline for mankind that need to be conserved and protected. The young children, as flag bearers of the future, need to be made joint partners to this endeavour by making them aware about forests and environment. Keeping in view Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun signed a MoU with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to promote awareness about forests and environment among school children for acquiring skills that reflects care and protection towards forests, environment and society under programme called PRAKRITI. A meeting in this regard, was conducted on 4th January 2018 in Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Singh Rawat, Director, FRI to finalize the calendar of activities for promoting awareness among school children about forests and environment. Dr. A. K. Pandey, Head, Extension Division of Institute welcomed the Director and distinguished guests including Dy. Commissioners of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and Chandigarh KVS and briefed about the meeting. He had made a presentation highlighting the strengths of the institute and brief outline of the calendar of activities and requested all the participants to contribute for the finalization of calendar under programme PRAKRITI. He told that the institute will arrange visits of Junior and senior students and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh which are under the jurisdiction of institute. The Director FRI told to representatives of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that FRI is a premier institute of forestry research and equipped with every type of technical know-how in the field of forestry and environment and further the institute has developed many technologies which are simple and eco-friendly. He also mentioned that the institute has well educated and experienced scientists/officers. He assured that every possible efforts will be made to execute calendar of activities and all possible facilities will be provided to students and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas.

In the meeting, Shri, S. S. Rawat, Dy. Commissioner, KVS Gurugaon; Shri V. K. Pandey, Dy. Commissioner, KVS, Dehradun; Shri A. K. Pant, Dy. Commissioner, KVS, Lucknow; Smt. Mirdha, Dy. Commissioner, KVS, Delhi; Smt. Alka Gupta, Asst. Commissioner, KVS, Dehradun; Smt. Neeta Khurana, Asst. Commissioner, KVS, Dehradun; Smt. T. Rukmani, Asst. Commissioner, KVS, Chandigarh; Smt. Meenakshi, Asst. Commissioner, Varanasi; Shri V. N. Bahukhandi, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, FRI, Dehradun also expressed their views and gave valuable inputs for the finalization of calendar of the activities for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. After detailed discussions following suggestions were given by distinguished members:

1. A sensitization course for teachers of KVs working in the States/ Union Territories under Jurisdiction of FRI should be organized at FRI Dehradun in the month of May/June 2019. It was also decided that selection and grouping of teachers will be done the level of KVS or KVs.

2. It was decided that one day exposure visit for the students will be arranged as per convenience of respected schools but the number of visits will be limited to two visits per month. The exposure visit will start with the students of Dehradun region from the month of January 2019. If the visit is residential the respective school (s) will make their own arrangement for boarding and lodging of students and coordinators. Accommodation for coordinators may be arranged by the FRI.
3. The exposure visit of students of other region will be arranged during Summer Vacation. Nearly 60 students drawn from various regions will participate in the visit. The final dates will be informed by KVS.
4. Exposure visits for a day will be arranged for the students who come to nearby area like Haryana, Delhi and Punjab on excursion tours.
5. The exposure visit will include visit to Museums, Bamboosetum, Botanical Garden, Herbarium, Xylarium, Divisions and Laboratories of FRI. Ex-situ and In-situ Lectures will be delivered on different forestry aspects and scientific innovations done by FRI. The concern school (s) will intimate the convenient schedule for visit and lectures to FRI so that necessary arrangement may be made.
6. Visits and lectures will be categorized in two categories viz. visits and lectures for junior (6th -8th standard) and senior (9th -12th standard) students.
7. It was also suggested that if a student wants to do project/ dissertation work e.g., herbarium preparation, taxonomic identification, bird watching, chemical analysis or utilization of waste etc. at FRI. On request, concerned student will be attached to some division for his project work, where they take guidance from subject experts.
8. Photographic/painting/quiz and essay/slogan writing completions will be arranged by FRI, Dehradun in consultation with KVs. Efforts will be made to make it online to make it easy for submission of entries.
9. Lectures and visits of students will be organized during regional meet/science festival/specific events time as the students from different region will gather at one place.
10. Sensitization programme for Biology, Science and Social science teachers will be arranged at FRI on the request received from KVs
11. All the participants agreed to review the calendar of activities time to time to make it more simple and applicable.
12. FRI may also provide resource persons to KVS during their excursion to forest/eco park to sensitize them about biodiversity (flora and fauna).

Dr. N. K. Upareti, Group Coordinator Research, Dr. P. S. Rawat, Scientist-F, Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist-E, Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist-D, Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist-D were present in the meeting and gave valuable inputs. A team of Extension Division of the institute including, Shri Ajay Gulati, Sr. Technical Officer and Shri Vijay Kumar, ACF contributed for the successful conduction of meeting.



Dr.A.K.Pandey, Head, Extension Division Welcoming Director, FRI and other guests



Director, FRI Shri A.S.Rawat addressing the meeting



Group photograph of the meeting with DCs, ACs, Principals of KVs and Officers and Scientists of FRI