

### **Training Workshop on ‘Silage: An Opportunity for Forestry Sector’**

A one-day training workshop on ‘Silage: An Opportunity for Forestry Sector’ was organized by ICFRE-Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on March 5, 2024 under CAMPA AICRP -17 (Enhancement of Fodder Availability and Quality to Reduce Unsustainable Grazing in the Forest). The training workshop was designed to train the scientific and technical personnel of ICFRE Institutes working under AICRP -17 on the technique of silage making. The training workshop was attended by participants from eight research institutes and centres of ICFRE.

Speaking during the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Mrs. Richa Misra, IFS, Director-in-Charge stressed the need for finding scientific solutions to increase availability of fodder in forest fringe villages especially during lean periods. Scarcity of fodder is a major reason behind excessive lopping of trees causing severe damage. Open grazing is a cause behind loss of biodiversity. She was happy to note that green fodder which is available in good amounts during some months of the year can be preserved in the form of silage and fed to animals during lean season. She expressed happiness at the practical orientation of this training course.

National Project Coordinator of the AICRP-17 Dr Dinesh Kumar stated that silage has been in use in developed countries for over a century. It is made by a simple process through anerobic fermentation. Under the project, the method of silage production has been adapted under this project to suit the requirement of stakeholders who own few animals to produce milk for own consumption. This method of ensiling allows using green fodder available to them in small quantities for the purpose of silage making. Silage is comparable to fresh green fodder in nutritive value and is much more nutritious than the dry fodder.

During technical sessions, discussion took place on importance of silage to serve as a source of fodder during periods of fodder scarcity, methodology for its preparation and prospects for promotion of silage. A hands-on session on silage preparation was the highlight of the programme. Strategy was also discussed for research and extension of this technology by the institutes of ICFRE.

Images:



Group photograph of participants



Chief Guest Mrs. Richa Misra, IFS delivering inaugural address





**NPC Dr Dinesh Kumar and resource person Ms Sugandha elaborating the process of silage making**





**Adding jaggery to grass**



**Silage bags being prepared**



**Filling of silage bags**



**Closing silage bags**





**Silage bags with grass for ensilage**