

**One week IFS Compulsory Training
Course on “Forest Certification: A Marketing Tool for Sustainable Forest
Management” Inaugurated at IIFM.**

One week Compulsory Training Course for the officers of Indian Forest Service conducted at IIFM during September 14-18, 2009. The topic of the course was **“Forest Certification: A Marketing Tool for Sustainable Forest Management”**.

The programme has attended by senior forest officers from the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The programme sponsored by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. IIFM faculty Prof. Manmohan Yadav has



conducted this one week program. As part of the programme, the officers has conducted field exercise in Ratapani Sanctuary as well as Satpura National Park.

Forest Certification has emerged as a market tool for communicating the good management practices in a forest to the consumers of forest products. Though, this concept is more popular in the developed markets but it is also gaining consumer awareness in the Indian premium market segments. IIFM is doing the pioneer work in this field of forest certification by conducting such training programmes and research through field studies.

The programme focuses on the third party assessment of forest management practices known as forest certification. Such assessment has been necessitated in an environmentally conscious world where consumers in developed markets show their preferences for such products that come from sustainably managed forest. Forest Certification is intended to link trade in forest products to the sustainable management of forest resources by enabling producers and consumers to recognize products made from timber / NWFP coming from sustainably managed forests. The requirement of forest certification while promotes sustainability concerns through the concept of triple bottom line (Ecologically sound, Socially desirable and Economically viable practices) it also poses threat to products of developing countries to the developed markets as technical barrier to trade under WTO rules.

Apart from presentations on the key concepts of Forest certification, case studies from Indonesia, Malaysia and India have discussed during the programme.

Inaugurating the programme Shri A.K.Dubey, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh informed that Indian Forest Management is one of the most scientific management system in the World and the first management plan was prepared as early as 1824. He further highlighted that Madhya Pradesh has been pioneer state in testing the internationally accepted system of Sustainable Forest Management through Criteria and Indicators in association with the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India and Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

Dr. R.B.Lal, Director, IIFM in his inaugural address, highlighted the work on Forest Certification and Sustainable Forest Management by the Indian Institute of Forest Management. He further emphasized that the Institute has been conducting research on applicability of National set of Criteria & Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in different states of the country and disseminating the knowledge and experience from this research through organizing workshops, conferences and training programmes like the current one. The outcome of such research and stakeholder consultation provide useful inputs to the Government of India for policy making as well as building India's stand on International negotiations on the issue of Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification.

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