

## **Consultative meeting on ‘Baseline study to quantify the extent and spread of Invasive Alien Species in Madhya Pradesh’**

The consultative meeting on ‘Baseline study to quantify the extent and spread of Invasive Alien Species in Madhya Pradesh’ has been held at Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur on 13.09.2019 with officials from SFD, Madhya Pradesh, Scientists from Directorate of Weed Research and SFRI, Jabalpur. During the meeting the following officials were presents.

1. Dr. Rajeshwar Rao, Director, TFRI
2. Shri. Pradeep Vasudeva, IFS, APCCF (Working Plan), Jabalpur region
3. Shri. Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IFS, APCCF (IT), Bhopal
4. Shri. C. Behera, IFS, GCR, TFRI
5. Shri. Mudrika Singh, IFS, Additional Director, SFRI, Jabalpur
6. Dr. Sushil Kumar, Principal Scientist, DWR, Jabalpur
7. Dr. V.K. Choudary, Senior Scientist, DWR, Jabalpur
8. Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G & Head, Forest Protection division
9. Dr. Avinash Jain, Scientist-F & Head, Forest Ecology and Climate Change division
10. Dr. A.N. Arun Kumar, Scientist-F & Head, Genetics and Tree Improvement division
11. Dr. Geetha Joshi, Scientist-F & Head, Forest Extension division
12. Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-E and
13. Shri. Dheeraj Kumar Gupta, Scientist-C.

At the outset, the Director, TFRI welcomed all and briefed about the purpose of the consultative meeting on forest weed management. Further, he requested the experts to arrive the common action plan/road map for baseline study to quantify the extent and spread of Invasive Alien Species in Madhya Pradesh, Lantana removal strategies and rehabilitation of the degraded areas with appropriate species and soil and moisture conservation measures.

Shri. Sanjay Shukla, IFS, APCCF (IT) informed that, the baseline survey may be initiated in some forest divisions/protected areas through simple survey method. Further, he informed that, information on vegetation will be available on beat level with concerned DFOs. He asked to device common format for collection of basic information on weeds with different intensity/ infestation level in different district/divisions of Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Sushil Kumar, Pr. Scientist suggested that, the sample survey may be conducted by personal visits to the forest areas. Also, he suggested to send the format to concerned DFOs for seeking information on presence of weeds. During the meeting it was decided that, TFRI and DWR, Jabalpur will jointly device the format for seeking information on weeds.

Shri. C. Behera, GCR suggested to quantify the area occupied by the major and minor weeds during survey.

Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G informed that, some baseline study on invasive alien species in Madhya Pradesh has already conducted by TFRI and the project report may be referred. He also requested to set up a 'Task Force' to monitor the various activities to be undertaken in invasive alien species at national level.

Shri. Sanjay Shukla, IFS, APCCF (IT) informed that, the vegetation map from Wild Life Institute, Dehra Dun and Forest Fire map from FSI, Dehradun may be procured and based on imposing both the maps, field visits may be undertaken to see the presence and extent of invasive weeds.

Regarding Lantana removal strategies and rehabilitation of the degraded areas with appropriate species, Dr. Sushil Kumar, Pr. Scientist informed that, already various control mechanisms (both physical and chemical methods) have been standardized. Also, he informed that, local peoples are making furniture's and charcoal from Lantana as value addition from invasive alien species of Lantana. He added that, new project proposal may be formulated and submitted for funding from MoEF&CC for the baseline study.

In the consultative meeting it was unanimously agreed that, State Forest Department, Madhya Pradesh will be a lead institute to execute the activity on baseline study to quantify the extent and spread of Invasive Alien Species in Madhya Pradesh with the technical support of TFRI, SFRI and DWR, Jabalpur.

During the meeting, it was suggested by the participants that, the DDG (Research), ICFRE is requested to arrange the vegetation map from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehara Dun and Forest Fire map from FSI, Dehara Dun for further course of action.

The meeting ends up with the vote of thanks by Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-E.



