

30th Research Advisory Group meet virtually conducted at TFRI

■ Staff Reporter

TO EVALUATE the new forestry research project proposals and review progress of ongoing projects, the 30th Research Advisory Group (RAG) meeting was virtually conducted at Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jabalpur, on Wednesday.

Eminent forest officers from the institute's three jurisdiction states i.e., Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh chaired the technical sessions of the meeting including Dr. P. K. Shukla, IFS (Retd. PCCF), Dr. Sanjay Shukla, IFS APCCF, A.K. Patil, IFS MD, MPRVVN, R K Wankhede, IFS, APCCF(RET), Maharashtra and R. Kallaje, IFS, CCF (R&E) C.G. other members of the core group of external experts included scientists and officers from state forest departments including Dr. Nitin

Kulkarni, Director IFP; Dr S S Narkhede, Dr Sushil Kumar, Dr A K Handa, Dr Rakesh Bajpai, Dr S Sambath and Dr S D Upadhyay, Prof M L Khan, Dr S R K Singh, Manish K. Vijay, Neeraj Prajapati, Singham Swamy and Dr U S Sharma.

Dr G Rajeshwar Rao, ARS, Director, TFRI welcomed the dignitaries, briefed about the history of the institute and explained elaborate system to screen research proposals in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). Informing about the various achievements through the projects of the institute, he mentioned about the resultant doable technologies released by the institute for use of different stakeholders.

A total of 04 new research projects were proposed at the RAG-1) Development of nano-formulation for management of major

defoliator pests of Teak and Gmelina, 2) Evaluation of nano-fertilizers on growth and performance of forest tree species in nursery and plantations, 3) Biotization with plant growth promoting rhizosphere and endophytic bacteria to induce systemic resistance against nursery pathogens in micro propagated bamboo and teak and 4) Sustainable Management of grasslands inside tiger reserves of Madhya Pradesh with special emphasis to 'Ingression of Tree'. Ongoing projects were also reviewed by the RAG.

Dr Fatima Shirin, scientist, TFRI, moderated the meeting and extended the formal vote of thanks. Around 40 experts including scientists, officials from State Forest Departments, universities and various other organizations virtually participated in this RAG meeting.