INSTITUTE OF FOREST PRODUCTIVITY
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH & EDUCATION)
RANCHI

Training on "Seed Ball Technology" developed by ICFRE
For
Forest Officials of Jharkhand State Forest Department

The training programme on "Seed Ball Technology" developed by ICFRE' was organized by the Institute of Forest Productivity under the supervision of Dr. N. Kulkarni, Director, IFP on 30/06/2021 for Jharkhand. The training programme was attended by a total of 22 numbers of participants from more than 2 divisions of Jharkhand. The programme was conducted following the strict protocols of social distancing and wearing the mask in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

In the introductory session Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra, training coordinator, briefed about the significance of Seed Ball Technology and its utility for greening the inaccessible areas which will ultimately beneficial for increasing the total forest cover. He outlined that SFDs of the jurisdiction states of IFP will be implementing agencies under supervision of the institute. Before its implementation in the field condition, the technique developed by IFGTB Coimbatore has to be demonstrated for creating awareness among the forest officials of the states.

During Inauguration Director Dr. N. Kulkarni explained about the expectations of the MoEF & CC Government of India regarding the need for training for greening the country through some innovative ideas and concepts. He said that the Government of India has given the responsibility of re-establishment of Seed Ball Technology to the Indian Council of Forestry and Education Dehradun through its regional institutes like Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi in eastern India. Under this scheme, the Institute has become the central agency to assess the success of this technology in Jhakhand, Bihar and West Bengal and this training is a part of this programme for field level implementation and demonstration. He said that this technology is not new but the data of its success or failure is not available. This technology may be useful for remote areas and the areas severely effected due to mining. Before deciding the government application, it has to be ensured by collecting the data of this technique with the cooperation of various forest departments that how long this technology is worth. He discussed in detail about the use and success of Seed Ball Technology in various forest divisions of Madhya Pradesh. He said that with the help of this technology, we can contribute to forest growth by planting saplings

in mountainous hills, dry areas, moist areas and mining-prone areas.

During the technical session Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra demonstrated the success of the technique of Seed Ball through the videos obtained from Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. He demonstrated the method for preparation of seed ball using mixture of different ingredients (soil, sand, FYM, neem powder, tricoderma etc). He explained about the method of seed collection and pretreatment for making seed ball and its planting in the different areas and collection of the data for its evaluation. He told that 70-80 seed balls can be prepared from 1.2 kg of the mixture and for planting 5 hectare 14 kg of mixture is required. He urged to give priority to collect the seeds of local species preferably RET species and abudantly available in the areas. He explained about the design to be followed across three sites in the state. The method of data collection for germination at second month and survival in every fourth month was also discussed in length to be recorded with the provision of casualty replacement in the second year.

After the deliberations, the queries raised by the participants were mostly on the design of experiments and the selection of species at each grid, provision of SMC work and protection of the sites. The queries were replied by the coordinator.

The meeting was ended with the vote of thanks to all the participants, Nodal Officer from Jharkhand Shri Shiddhant Tripathy, CCF (Research), Smt. Smita Pankaj, CF (Research) and the team of extension division, IFP Ranchi for successful completion of the event.

Inauguration of the training programme on Seed Ball Technology by the Director

Interaction with the trainees through question/answer session

Receiving feedback from the trainees