

Report on the interaction meeting with Dr. Om P. Rajora, Professor, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, Canada

A meeting with Dr. Om P. Rajora, Professor, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, Canada and the Scientists and Research Officers of IFGTB, in the presence of Director and Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB was convened at 3.00 pm on 9th June 2014. The ongoing research and extension activities of the institute were discussed during the meeting. He was much impressed with the scientific expertise in different fields available in the institute, orientation of the research projects / programmes and the extension activities in general. He made the following remarks:

- There is much scope for conservation and management of Forest Genetic Resources in India which is a megadiverse country. In this context, he underscored the need to conceptualize multi-institutional long term programs for seeking funding from external donor agencies. He said the IFGTB should look for larger collaboration in the area of FGR.
- He pointed out the need for taking up genetic profiling of indigenous trees like Teak (*Tectona grandis*), *Gmelina arborea*, *Melia dubia* etc. He suggested to give first priority to Teak, as this species is a major economically important species in India and many Asian as well as African countries. He emphasized the need for genomic research in native species.
- He opined that, there is good scope for research on bioprospecting. He also said that there is an essential need for establishing National Seed Centre as done in many countries to support FGR documentation and conservation.
- He suggested for taking up climate change research with reference to endemic and threatened species.
- Interacting with the scientists, he said that IFGTB should establish more international collaboration and become member of forestry forums.
- The discussion with Dr. Rajora and his suggestions for fine tuning research were well received. He specially assured support for FGR research in which IFGTB is already a lead player through establishment of FGRMN.

(Dr. N. Krishna Kumar)
Director

Meeting with Dr. Om P. Rajora

