



केंद्र शासित प्रदेश जम्मू व कश्मीर के वन मृदा स्वास्थ्य कार्ड से संबन्धित परामर्श बैठक' का आयोजन (12 मार्च, 2025)

STAKEHOLDER'S CONSULTATION MEET ON FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) FOR UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ICFRE- Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla organised a consultative meeting on **FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs)** of Jammu and Kashmir in hybrid mode at Forest Resources Management Centre (FRMC), Jammu on dated 12 March, 2025. Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Jammu & Kashmir Forest department chaired the meeting. Besides, Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF/CEO, CAMPA, Dr Suneesh Buxy, IFS, Addl. PCCF/Director, Social Forestry, Dr. K. Anandh, IFS, CCF and Nodal Officer FCA and other Senior Officers attended the meeting physically. The CCFs, CFs from Circles and Divisional Forest Officers of 31 forest divisions of J&K, Scientists of ICFRE institutes joined the meeting virtually.

In the beginning, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director, HFRI extended a warm welcome to Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta PCCF& HOFF (J&K.), distinguished forest officers and other participants of the meeting. In his address, Dr. Sandeep Sharma highlighted the importance of forest soils and apprised that HFRI, Shimla was given the task of preparations of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) of Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh, under one of the All India Coordinated Research Project titled 'Preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards Under different Forest Vegetation in all the Forest Divisions of India (AICRP-22). He informed that FSHCs has been prepared after collection of soil samples from different forest class including the degraded areas, non-forest areas and scrub forests. Dr. Sandeep Sharma said that main objective of preparation of forest soil health cards is to find out the status of forest soils in terms of availability of different macro and micro nutrients to the plants, address the existing knowledge gaps in management of forest soils, understanding the soil related constraints particularly of degraded areas and suggesting recommendations for improvement in the nutrient deficient soils for success of plantation activities.

During the technical session, Dr. V.P. Panwar, Scientist-F, FRI, Dehradun and National Project Coordinator (NPC) gave a presentation elucidating the genesis, implementation, and key outcomes of the project. Dr. Panwar said that healthy soils play key role in sustainable growth of forests and plantations. He told that the pilot initiative of preparation of FSHCs has been taken after thorough discussions & deliberations. GIS & RS based methodology framework, statistically validated soil sampling locations and uniform analytical protocols has been adopted in this project. The stressed that project activities are aimed at management of soil fertility related status in degraded areas. Further, NPC added that capacity building programmes has also been proposed under the project to impart training to front-line functionaries on soil test based nutrient management, etc.

Then, Dr. R.K.Verma, Scientist –G & Project Investigator (PI) of AICRP-22 from HFRI gave a detailed presentation of the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir. In his presentation, he elaborated about quantum of samples collected from each forest divisions of J&K covering the Very dense, Moderately dense, Open Forests, Scrub Forests and Non-Forest areas. In addition, he explicated about the standard analytical protocols used for estimating the 12 comprehensive parameters. Further, he discussed in detail the methodology for drawing reference range and calculation of divisionwise test values. Dr. Verma also shared the FSHCs of Anantnag, Lidder, Udhampur, Jammu, Samba and Kathua forest divisions and spell out the contents of Cards.

After the presentations by NPC and PI, comments/inputs of the stakeholders were invited. Detailed discussion were held on the contents of FSHCs and officers of forest department provided useful insights for refinement of the cards.

Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF, enquired about the bench mark for reference range of forest types found in Jammu and Kashmir provinces. The PI clarified that the value has been calculated on the basis of dataset of soil characterisation found in VDF, MDF forests occurring both in Jammu as well as Kashmir Province. Moreover, outlier values have been removed from the dataset and subsequently standards were calculated for entire state/UT.

Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS, Addl.PCCF/Director, Social Forestry apprehended about the use of in-organic fertilizers in forest ecosystems and pointed out that biological supplements like VAM etc., has not been suggested Cards. NPC endorsed the concern of using fertilizers in forest ecosystems and said that due care has been taken to work out the recommendations both for organics and in-organics. He added that twelve chemical parameters for estimation has been taken in line with Agriculture Soil Health Cards and

biological component was not embraced due to limits of budget. Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS, Addl.PCCF/Director suggested the need of knowing holistic soil health.

Sh. T Rabi Kumar, IFS, Addl. PCCF asserted that as compartment is the smallest unit of management and it will be better to ascertain the soil health at range level or compartment level. Dr. Panwar explained that initially the idea of preparation of FSHCs at smallest management unit level was considered, but due to huge quantum of soil samples to be collected and analysed, later on Forest division was selected for soil sampling and statistically validated sampling points have been drawn for different forest divisions. Never the less, there is ample scope of replicating the study at compartment level in further phases of project. Similarly, suggestions for working out the C/N ratio and species wise nutrient requirement of forest crops were given. Finally, the discussions were summed up.

Thereafter, Sh. S.K. Gupta, IFS Chairman of the meeting addressed the participants. In his concluding address, he emphasised on the various aspects related to forest soil ecosystem and talked at length about the myriad ecosystems services provided by forest soils. He expressed serious concern over the degradation of soils attributed to varied reasons. In Jammu and Kashmir perspective, he said that though the forest wealth is profuse but issues like degraded areas, shallow soils at places, poor nutrient status, less success in plantation activities cannot be overlooked. Appreciating the efforts of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, he said that initiative of preparing the FSHCs is praiseworthy and the information given in the cards will be useful for concerned forest departments of different states and UTs. He also insisted to translate the contents of the FSHCs in Urdu for making the cards more useful to the field functionaries of forest department in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The proceedings of the meeting were moderated by Dushyant Kumar, Sr. Technical Officer HFRI and it concluded with formal vote of thanks.

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✦ Glimpses of Meeting ✦





Soil Health Cards for J&K Forests on anvil

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 12

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun under Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has launched a project to prepare Forest Soil Health Cards in the country.

The exercise in J&K has been taken up by Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla under the aegis of ICFRE. Under the project, samples of soils were collected from different territorial forest divisions. The samples were analyzed and data obtained has been shared with the J & K Forest Department for inputs.

In this regard, a consultative meeting on FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir was organized at Forest Resources Management Centre Jammu today. The meeting was chaired



by Principal Chief Conservator & HoFF Jammu and Kashmir Suresh Kr. Gupta. All the senior officers of forest department and Divisional Forest Officers attended the meeting.

Director Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla Dr. Sandeep Sharma; National Project Coordinator (NPC) from ICFRE Dr. V.P. Panwar; Scientist-G and Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla Dr.

R.K. Verma, along with a team of scientists and officers coordinated and participated in the meeting.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director HFRI Shimla apprised the participants that his institute has been given the task of preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) of Jammu & Kashmir UT under one of the All India Coordinated Research Projects. He informed that besides Jammu and Kashmir, the institute has also prepared the Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) for Ladakh UT and Himachal Pradesh under this project. He further informed that these Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) have been prepared after collection of soil samples from different forest classes including the degraded areas, non-forest areas and scrub forests.

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knowledge gaps in management of forest soils; suggesting recommendations for improvement in the nutrient deficient soils for success of forestry plantation and productivity enhancement.

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Later, Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla Dr. R.K. Verma, interacted with the participants and gave a detailed presentation about the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) and explained how soil samples have been collected from different locations of Jammu and Kashmir territorial forest divisions and analysed as per the standard protocols. He also explained about the use of GIS and RS tools for deciding the sampling locations and quantum of samples to be collected from each forest division. He also discussed the various organic and inorganic recommendations made in the FSHCs. This was followed by detailed discussion on the contents and FSHCs. The Officers of the forest department provided useful inputs for refinement of these cards. Dushyant Kumar, Senior Technical Officer, HFRI Shimla conducted the proceedings of the meeting and also proposed the formal vote.

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KN NEWS SERVICE

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IN THE COURT OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR (EMIC) DALSAIR
Koshalaya versus Block Development Officer Ramnagar.
Application seeking direction to BDO Ramnagar for the registration of Date of Birth of Petitioner.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC IN GENERAL
WHEREAS, the applicants namely Koshalaya Dio Sh. Mansa Ram R/o Village Romain, Post Office- Badhole, Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur J&K UT has filed an application seeking direction to BDO Ramnagar to register the Date of Birth of the Petitioner namely Koshalaya Dio Sh. Mansa Ram R/o Romain whose date of birth is 01.07.1968 in the concerned register kept in the said Block Development Office and issue certificate of Birth under "The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 as her birth particulars has not been registered anywhere in the Police/BDO/O records.

Therefore, by virtue of this notice, public in general is informed that if any person has any objection in respect of the above-mentioned application he/she may appear in this court either personally or through a Counsel and file his/her objection within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said application shall be dealt, in accordance with law.

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today 11/03/2025
8di-
Nalib Tehsildar,
Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Dalsair.

Jammu & Kashmir

Soil Health Cards for J&K forests on anvil

KA NEWS NETWORK

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