Report of the One Day Training on "Productivity Enhancement through Plus Tree Selection, SPA Development, Seed and Nursery Techniques of Important Plantation Tree Species of Himachal Pradesh

Date: 07 March 2026
Venue: Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar, Mandi

A one-day training programme on "Productivity Enhancement through Plus Tree Selection, Seed Production Area (SPA) Development, and Seed & Nursery Techniques of Important Plantation Tree Species of Himachal Pradesh" was organized on 07 March 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar, Mandi. The programme was conducted by ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Integrated Development Project (HP-IDP), Solan.

The programme was attended by 51 participants, comprising frontline staff of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, and HP-IDP staff. The objective of the training was to strengthen technical knowledge and field-level capacity in quality planting material production, plus tree selection, Seed Production Area (SPA) development, scientific seed handling, and modern nursery management practices for important plantation species of Himachal Pradesh.

Inaugural Session

The programme commenced with an inaugural session. Dr. Mohd. Ibrahim, Scientist-E and Training Coordinator, welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director-Link and Group Coordinator (Research), HFRI, Shimla; the Special Guest, Sh. Subhash Chand Prasher, IFS, Director, Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar; Sh. Piyush Sharma, Deputy Director, Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar; and Sh. Devender Dogra, Deputy Director, Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar.

Dr. Mohd. Ibrahim presented an overview of the training programme, outlining its objectives, thematic focus, and expected outcomes. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, in his address, emphasized the importance of adopting scientific approaches in plantation forestry, promoting quality planting stock, and strengthening nursery technologies to improve plantation productivity and sustainability.

Technical Sessions

The technical sessions were structured around key thematic areas relevant to plantation productivity and nursery management. The first session, delivered by Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-G and Group Coordinator (Research), focused on the "Importance of Quality Planting Material (QPM) and Modern Nursery Techniques for QPM Production." The presentation highlighted the role of superior genetic material and standardized nursery practices in enhancing plantation success.

The session on Nursery Protocols of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department was conducted by Sh. Devender Dogra, Deputy Director, Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar. He explained the standard nursery practices followed by the Forest Department, including seed handling, sowing techniques, and maintenance of seedlings to ensure quality planting stock.

In the post-lunch session Dr. Ashwani Tapwal, Scientist-F, delivered a lecture on "Eco-friendly Management of Forest Nurseries using Mycorrhizae and Biocontrol Agents," emphasizing sustainable and biological approaches to nursery health management.

The final technical session was conducted by Dr. Mohd. Ibrahim. He delivered a lecture on "Seed Production Area Development and Plus Tree Selection for Planting Stock Improvement," detailing scientific criteria and methodologies for the identification of superior trees and establishment of SPAs.

Valedictory Session: The programme concluded with a valedictory session that included certificate distribution, participant feedback, and an open discussion. Participants appreciated the relevance and practical utility of the sessions and acknowledged the benefits of enhanced technical exposure.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mohd. Ibrahim, Scientist-E and Training Coordinator, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, resource persons, participating officers, and organizing team for their contributions to the successful conduct of the programme.

Glimpses of Training Programme