

Inception Workshop on “Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Monitoring Protocols and Capacities in India”.

Dated 29th August 2016, a Workshop was held in Forest Survey of India, Dehradun which was inaugurated & addressed by Dr. S.S. Negi, Director General Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Mr. Shyam Khadka, FAO representative in India, Mr. Chip Scott, Consultant, FAO, Dr. Shashi Kumar, Director General, ICFRE, Mr. Saibal Dasgupta, Director General Forest Survey of India. Representatives from Central & State Forest Departments, Officers and staff of Forest Survey of India were also present.

Due to increasing awareness, the demand of information from the forestry sector has increased manifold. The forestry sector is continuously facing new challenges in terms of generating new information as per the national and international requirements such as biodiversity, NTFPs, livelihood, climate change etc. To meet the increasing data requirements, a robust National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is the need of the hour.

In order to have a robust National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in the country, FSI has initiated a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Monitoring Protocols and Capacities in India under the overall guidance of MoEF & CC with the technical assistance of FAO. The FAO-TCP project would develop and set up a new integrated National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), build national capacities on forest monitoring, and pilot test implementation in selected states.

In order to carry out integrated assessments involving State Governments, studies will be carried out towards formulation of appropriate strategies and policies for the Indian forestry sector using the NFMS. These assessments will look beyond the traditional forest sector and include all important aspects of the role of the forest sector in Indian society. Given that the main users of NFMS monitoring and assessments will be the Central and State Governments, the FAO-TCP project will carry out capacity building of forestry personnel of Central and State Governments to use the NFMS data for carrying out national and state-level integrated assessments. Expected Outcomes include (a) Informed and evidence-based decision and policy making on forestry related issues; (b) Enhanced provision of goods and services in the forestry and natural resource management sectors; and (c) Improved livelihoods of rural communities through sustainable management of forest and tree resources.