



Newsletter

Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar



Chief Patron: Syed Said Badshah Bukhari
Director General

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NEWS OF FOREST EDUCATION DIVISION

HAKIM SHAH
Director Forest Education

The Forest Education Division, PFI conducted many activities especially the 48th Convocation and Passing out Ceremony of the Forestry Graduates, Annual Sports Week and Cultural Show in addition to other routine activities during January to March, 2011 as given below:

48th Convocation and Passing out Ceremony

The holding of Annual Convocation has been the hallmark of Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) in the past. An impressive 48th Convocation / Passing Out Ceremony of Forestry Graduates of the Institute was held on 26th February, 2011 after a break of a decade which is the healthy sign of the revival of the past glory of the Institute. The ceremony was attended by large number of foresters, environmentalists, educationists, wildlife and forest officers from all the provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and Ministry of Environment, Islamabad. Mr. Ifthihar Rahim Khan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment was the Chief Guest of the event.

The Hon'ble Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmed Khan presided over the Convocation and awarded degrees to 195 Forestry Graduates; 97 M.Sc and 98 B.Sc Forestry of the sessions 2007-09 and 2008-10 during an impressive ceremony at PFI auditorium. The position holders were awarded 72 gold and silver medals and 18 medals of distinctions in various disciplines (39 medals to M.Sc and 33 medals to B.Sc Forestry) of the last ten years.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, in his address, highlighted the important role of trained foresters in meeting the challenges of conservation of meager forest resources and its rational utilization for the benefits of present and future generations.

He said Pakistan has very limited forest resources and PFI should take a lead role in enhancing forests, conservation of wildlife and bio-diversity resources



48th Convocation and Passing out Ceremony of the Forestry Graduates

through adaptation of modern techniques and research work.

courses have been revised in line with international standard, he said, adding that



Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar addressing the convocation

He also pointed out that there was a growing realization among masses about importance of forestry resources vital for socio-economic development besides addressing issues of global warming, climatic change and desertification in the region. He congratulated the management of PFI for organizing the convocation that would encourage students to excel in their studies.

Director General PFI, Syed Said Badshah Bukhari presented the progress report of the Institute for the year 2009-10 and pointed out that the Institute had attained high standard by providing quality forestry education to students in diversified fields including forestry, wildlife, range management and bio-diversity besides quality research on regional and international issues. He said PFI would be up-graded to degree awarding Institute and consultation process is underway in this connection. The curriculum of forestry



A view of convocation ceremony

more than 300 quality research papers have been produced by scholars and researchers of this great Institute.



DG, PFI addressing the convocation

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Ifthihar Rahim in his address, highlighted that Pakistan needed a lot of wood resources to meet its national demand for the forest produce and PFI can play a vital role in this connection through applied research in forestry and education / training of foresters. He

expressed the hope that forestry graduates would devote their lives for promotion and protection of forests in the country. He paid vote of thanks to the Presiding Officer, distinguished guests, organizers and the graduated foresters.



Mr. Iftikhar Rahim, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment paying vote of thanks



Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar awarding medals to the position holders



Mr. Iftikhar Rahim, JS awarding degrees to the graduates



DG, PFI presenting shield to the Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar



DG, PFI presenting shield to Mr. Iftikhar Rahim, JS



DG, PFI presenting shield to Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Controller of Examination, University of Peshawar



Mr. Hakim Shah, DFE awarding shields to the position holders

CULTURAL SHOW

A Cultural Show was organized on 25th February, 2011 at Pakistan Forest Institute after a gap of a decade with full enthusiasm where cultures of all the provinces/regions were presented. Beside Forestry students, the distinguished guests of Research Review Committee, forest officers and faculty members also participated in the event. Director General PFI, Syed Said Badshah Bukhari was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Forestry students actively participated in the cultural show and performed various roles. This show provided an opportunity to them to express their talent and highlight the various cultures of the country. Photo glimpses of the ceremony are given below:



DG, PFI expressing his views on cultural show

ANNUAL SPORTS WEEK

The Annual Sports Week of Pakistan Forest Institute was celebrated during 21-24 February, 2011. All the forestry students participated in the Sports Week with full zeal and devotion. The major outdoor games included Cricket, Football, Basketball and Volleyball whereas the indoor games were Badminton, Table Tennis, Draft and Chess. In the indoor games, the female students also participated in similar zeal and spirit.

The M.Sc Forestry students got victory in Cricket and Football whereas B.Sc forestry students were winner of Volleyball and Basketball matches.



Group photo of M.Sc Forestry football team winner

On the 24th February, 2011 the Athletic were the main events. All the students and PFI employees participated in the Athletics. These included:-

- 100 meter race between students,
- 100 meter race between officers,
- 100 meter race between employees,

400 meter relay race between students, Long Jump, High Jump, Discus Throw, Hammer Throw and Javelin Throw between students.



Long Jump Competition

Tug of war between the M.Sc and B.Sc students and the faculty members and musical chair race among Officers of PFI were also played.



A scene from tug of war

Director General, PFI and Director Forest Education distributed trophies and prizes amongst the winners' students.



A scene of basketball match



DG, PFI distributing the trophies



DFE distributing the trophies

DG, PFI in his address emphasized on the importance of sports for fitness of foresters, congratulated the winners and appreciated the role of administration of forest education, members of Sports Committee for organizing these activities & instructed for their further improvement.

SPECIAL LECTURE

Special lecture programme has been the regular feature of Forest Education Division, In this regard a special lecture was delivered by Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan (Advisor to Minister of Environment) on 10th March 2011 at PFI auditorium. All the faculty members and M.Sc and B.Sc forestry students attended the lecture. Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan focused his talk on Bio-diversity Conservation and Management issues relating with all the forest types of Pakistan. Moreover, he emphasized the future Foresters to be technically and physically fit to meet the challenges of forest and environmental development in the country.



Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan, delivering special lecture on biodiversity conservation

ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARRC) MEETING

M. Tahir Laeeq, DFRD

Annual Research Review Committee (ARRC) meeting was an annual feature of PFI. However, due to some reasons, this activity could not be undertaken for almost a decade. In order to restore this important activity, the meeting was called and held on 25th February, 2011. As a permanent feature of this committee, representatives of all provincial forests departments including AJ&K and GB and Environment Departments attended the meeting. Besides this, eminent foresters were also invited to attend the meeting.

Annual research plan was presented in meeting by PFI, as per agenda of the meeting. The meeting was announced open for discussions and comments. Representatives of Provincial Forestry Departments took keen interest and gave their valuable inputs and suggestions for revitalization of the PFI. They appreciated the efforts of DG, PFI, in particular and all staff at large, for their efforts in connection with, restoring the meeting, revival of Pakistan Journal of Forestry (PJF) and

holding 48th convocation of forestry graduates.

Important recommendations of the meeting were:

- PFI should be upgraded to a Degree Awarding Institute (DAI)
- Coordination and cooperation with provincial forest departments and other organizations may be strengthened
- PFI may sign MoUs/LoUs for collaboration with concerned departments
- Provincial forest departments will assist PFI in strengthening its field stations
- Provinces shall identify its research needs, priority wise and send to PFI
- Provinces shall also try to provide financial assistance to PFI for its research needs
- As per HEC requirements, PFI's plan to convert 2 years graduation programme to 4 years honours programme was also supported by the provinces.



DG, PFI presiding over the Research Review Committee Meeting



Annual Research Review Committee Meeting, 2011

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTRY

Mian Muhammad Shafiq, DCW & Tanveer Haider, TA

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests, with the theme of "Biodiversity and Climate Change. This announcement was to mark importance of forests, and was very imperative for mankind, in current scenario of climate change. It is time to come together to raise awareness on strengthening the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future

generations, otherwise we shall have to repent.



DG, PFI planting a sapling



DG, PFI delivering a talk on Radio Pakistan

Pakistan is planning many events in connection with International Year of Forests. World Forestry Day being the annual event of the year is also celebrated on 21st March every year in Pakistan and throughout the world. Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI), Peshawar, also planned a plantation activity and Radio talk at Radio Pakistan, Peshawar.

Syed Said Badshah Bukhari, DG, PFI planted a Chir (*Pinus roxburghii*) plant in the premises of Radio Pakistan, Peshawar. In his address he highlighted the importance of forests and pledged his efforts and contribution in making Pakistan green. He emphasized that, every citizen should come forward and plant a tree of his share in commemoration of this day. In the end, he said that Pakistan is a low forest cover country with only 5.2% area of the country, which needs to be increased, but it needs efforts of every citizen and we will have to demonstrate like one nation. The DG, PFI donated 400 plants of different species to the authorities of Radio Pakistan, Peshawar for planting in their office premises.

After plantation ceremony, DG, PFI was interviewed, live, in connection with World Forestry Day. He also got recorded, public awareness messages, on the importance and role of forests for clean and healthy environment.

Mr. Hakim Shah, Director Forest Education, Dr. Ayaz Khattak, Director Forest Products Research Division, Mr.M.Tahir Laeeq, Director, Forestry Research Division, Mian Muhammad Shafiq, Deputy Conservator Wildlife, Mr.Aurangzeb Ashraf Awan, Central Silviculturist and Mr.Ali

Sardar, Forest Ranger also participated in the planting activity at Radio Pakistan.

Moreover, in order to create awareness about the Forestry and Biodiversity three articles on the forestry subjects were published in the Newspapers:

1. Climate change scenario and mitigation measures through tree planting campaigns by Syed Said Badshah Bukari & G. A. Bajwa.
2. Role of forests in slowing global warming by T. A. Qureshi & S.Z. Satti
3. Forests are the wildlife habitat by Mian Muhammad Shafiq

IMPORTANCE OF BIRDS IN FOREST ECOSYSTEM

**Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Rajpar
Lecturer in Forestry**

Forest ecosystem is an assemblage of plant species and supporting a wide array of animals such as birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians and micro-organisms that live in environment and interact with one another. This ecosystem contain the greatest assemblages of bird species as compared to other ecosystems such as wetlands, rangelands and grasslands etc. Birds are bio-indicators of richness and health of forest ecosystem. They are living sensor of environmental change, enabling to detect the habitat degradation and quickly response as compared to other animals.

Birds play important role in forest ecosystem in which they live and provide wide variety of functions that contribute to maintain healthy forest ecosystem for the survivals of other animals. Some birds are top predators hence they reduce the pest population which have devastating affect on forest ecosystem such insects, rats and weeds etc. For example Robin and Sparrow control wide variety of worms which cause defoliation of leaves, attacks on barks, branches, roots and stems of tree. Woodpeckers are highly efficient predators of insects and control insect populations. Insect outbreaks may damage annually hundreds of millions of dollars of forest and agricultural products. It has been reported that birds reduce about 28% of forest and agricultural pests. Birds can substantially reduce the insect pest population without the economic, health and environmental cost of pesticides. Hawks and Owls prey on rats and mice which causing damage to seeds and roots of trees. Bobwhite may forage 15000 weed seeds per day. Scavenging birds feed on dead animals and keep environment neat and clean.

In addition, birds are important source of pollination and seed dispersal in forest

ecosystem i.e. hummingbirds nip on nectar and transfer pollen from one flower to other thus helps in pollination. Fruit eating birds helps in seed dispersal i.e. they eat and digest the pulp of berries and pass the seed in their droppings. Furthermore, birds are important source of food for other animals such as cats, raccoons, raptors, snakes and human etc. The feeding relationship among all animals in forest ecosystem helps prevents any one species from becoming too numerous.

BARK BORERS: THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FOREST INSECT PEST OF PAKISTAN

**Naveed Ahmed,
Assistant Forest Entomologist**

Bark borers are the most important and destructive forest insect pest of Pakistan and throughout world. The immature or larval stages of insects, particularly beetles and moths that feed on wood rather than leaves or plant juices are referred as borers. All the woody parts of the tree from the buds and twigs to the trunk and roots are susceptible to borer attack. Most borers are attracted to trees that are weakened through drought, injury or disease, but some borer species can successfully attack healthy, vigorous trees. They attack on wide range of host trees but preferably attack on poplar, blue pine, and deodar. In 2001, bark borers appeared in epidemic form on blue pine forests of Murree and Azad Kashmir. According to an estimate bark beetles caused a lost of about Rs.290 m only in Murree Forest Division.

The borer breeds in the tree trunk of large dimension and side twigs. Usually the borer makes galleries girdling the branch at several points consequently the twig dries up completely. The borer which feeds under the bark makes an entrance tunnel. At the lower end of the tunnel, two or more egg tunnels are cut vertically, transversally or radially between the bark and the wood. The eggs are laid along the walls of the egg-tunnel and the larvae excavate slender mines or larval burrows.

Once borers have infested a tree, they can be difficult to control by one method. Then they can only be control by Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. In IPM a number of control measures such as biological, cultural, mechanical, physical, use of sex attractants and biochemical methods are applied in such a way that they are complementary to each other control the pests effectively, and do not have any side effects. In these techniques chemical insecticides are used only as a last resort.