



Newsletter

Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar



Chief Patron: Syed Said Badshah Bukhari
Director General

Vol.3, Issue No.3
July - September, 2011

Editor: Tanvir Ahmad Qureshi
Extension Specialist

DEVOLUTION OF PAKISTAN FOREST INSTITUTE TO GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA UNDER 18TH AMENDMENT

Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI), Peshawar has been devolved to Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa w.e.f. 1st July 2011, under 18th Amendment. All employees of the Institute have been transferred to Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on deputation under Section 10 of the Civil Servant Act, 1973, on their existing posts in the same basic pay scales, pending formulation of a new enabling law on the subject.

In order to celebrate the Provincial Autonomy and devolution of PFI to Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a ceremony was held in the Committee Room of PFI on 2nd July 2011. Mr. Wajid Ali Khan, Minister of Environment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa graced the occasion as a chief guest. Mr. Zahur Ahmed Khan Khalil, Secretary, Environment Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and senior officers from Environment, Forest and Wildlife departments also attended the ceremony, besides all officers of PFI.

Syed Said Badshah Bukhari, Director General, PFI welcomed the chief guest and participants and presented power point presentation on PFI, highlighting its history, organization, functional set-up, salient achievements, outputs, major ongoing services, programmes and projects, and opportunities for improvement of PFI in post-devolution era.

Secretary Environment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in his address, recognized and highly appreciated the contribution of PFI in the promotion of forests and forestry in the country.

Chief guest, in his address, expressed immense pleasure on achievement of provincial autonomy, and the devolution of PFI to Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He expressed that there will be more opportunities for effective and fruitful working of the Institute. He ensured the full support of the Provincial Government in uplifting the



Group photograph on the occasion of devolution ceremony



Minister of Environment presiding over the meeting



PFI. He wished every success to PFI in its endeavors to meet its objective of forestry development through research and education.

In order to embrace PFI in its fold, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has declared PFI as an Attached Department of Environment Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa w.e.f. 1st July 2011, until further orders, and allowed to continue working, mutatis mutandis, as per its standing on 30th June 2011.

To reshape the PFI in the post-devolution era, PFI needs proper dressing up of its structure and working. A committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary (P&D), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and comprising provincial Secretaries of Environment, Finance, Planning and Development, Establishment, Inter-

Provincial Coordinator, Law, Higher Education, Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator Wildlife, Director General, EPA, Director Fisheries as members and DG, PFI as member /Secretary has been constituted, to deliberate on reorganization of the Institute, and make recommendations regarding new administrative structure and working of PFI. The committee will take up the assignment through focusing on following strategic issues of PFI:

- Review of function and scope of PFI.
- Restructuring and autonomy, including delegation of powers.
- Upgrading of PFI to Forest University / Degree Awarding Institution.
- Re-structuring of forest education system.

- Integration of provincial forestry research, education and training systems.
- Repair and maintenance system of PFI estate and infrastructure. Revision of service Rules of PFI, including constitution of Selection and Promotion Committees.
- Defining the role of PFI in international agreements/ protocols related to forestry
- Any other ancillary and related issues



DG, PFI presenting PFI Shield to Hon'able Minister

NEWS OF FOREST EDUCATION DIVISION

Hakim Shah
Director, Forest Education

The Forest Education Division carried out various special activities such as Survey camp at Shinkhari, Hill forests study tours to Hazara, admissions to M.Sc/B.Sc forestry 2011-13 session, Independence Day celebrations and Annual Marathon race during July-September 2011. The details are as under.

Survey Camp

The Forest Survey tour of M.Sc and B.Sc Forestry courses session 2010-2012 was held at PFI Field station Shinkhari from July 7 to July 18, 2011.

A total of 87 students belonging to M.Sc and B.Sc forestry classes session 2010-2012 took part in the practical exercise. The students were divided into 8 groups. Each group was led by a student from M.Sc class. Lectures were delivered by Mr. Asif Kamal Project Director URFS project. He supervised the field work along with Mr. Ghayyas Ahmad APOF, Mr. Yousaf Khan LIF, Mr. Sohaib Ahmed LIF, Mr. Ahmad Zamir LIF and Mr. Wasim Abbas FR. The students carried out Chain survey, Compass survey, Plane table survey, contouring exercise and leveling for Forest road construction. Students completed their survey sheets at the station.



Mr. Asif Kamal PD giving instructions to a group

Hill Forests Study Tours of M.Sc and B.Sc Forestry courses session 2010-12

Hill tour of M.Sc forestry 2010-12 was conducted from 19-07-2011 to 22-07-2011, under the supervision of Mr. Yousaf Khan (LIF) and Mr. Sohaib Ahmed (LIF). On 19-07-2011 class left Shinkhari field station for Naran, to observe the change in vegetation with altitude. At Naran, Mr. Yousaf Khan delivered a comprehensive lecture on the vegetation of moist and dry temperate zones. Then class started hiking towards famous lake Saif- ul- Maluk to observe the dry temperate forest and to observe how forest species change with altitude. On reaching the lake lecture regarding the management of parks, other recreational points and eco-tourism was delivered by Mr. Yousaf Khan. On 2nd day, before leaving for lake Lulusar, a brief lecture was delivered by Mr. Tehmasip (SDFO Kaghan) on the management system of these forests. He told students about how management system before ban on green felling was working and after ban how selection cum recreational silvicultural system was working in these forests and how FDC was playing its role in management of these forests. On the way to Lolusar lake brief lecture was delivered by Mr. Yousaf Khan on the vegetation and different agricultural systems. At Lolusar lake brief lecture about the wild life of the area was delivered. On the 3rd and last day class left Naran for Shogran. On the way students observed Sub-tropical Broad leaf forest, sub- tropical chir pine forest, moist temperate forest and dry temperate forest.

Hill forests study tour of B.Sc Forestry course session 2010-2012 was conducted from July 19 to July 23, 2011 under the supervision of Mr. Ghayyas Ahmad APOF and Mr. Ahmad Zamir LIF. The students were conducted visits to Shogran, Baz Khan, Ayubia and Balakot to study Moist Temperate forests, Chir Pine forests, Ayubia National Park and watershed Management activities respectively. At every station local field forest officers briefed the students about various aspects of forest management.



Mr. Yousaf Khan LIF briefing students about Moist Temperate Forests at Shogran

Admissions to M.Sc/ B.Sc forestry courses (session 2011-13)

The process for admission to M.Sc and B.Sc Forestry courses session 2011-13 started in the month of August 2011. Admission notices were advertised in a number of leading English and Urdu newspapers including The News, Dawn, Jang, Aaj and Mashriq during the last week of August. The last date for submission of applications was 8-9-2011.

The services of National Testing Service (NTS) were hired for conducting the entry test which was held simultaneously at five centres i.e. Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta on 18-9-2011. A total of 330 candidates were registered for the test. 43 candidates passed the entry test for M.Sc forestry by securing 40 or above marks while 183 passed the entry test for B.Sc forestry.

The size of M.Sc and B.Sc forestry classes is 50 students each. In the case of M.Sc forestry a total of 39 candidates were found eligible for admission based upon the admission criteria given in the college prospectus. In the case of B.Sc forestry there was strong competition for the 50 seats. Candidates from all parts of the country who fulfilled the eligibility conditions were selected on merit according to the provincial/regional population quotas.

Offer letters to all the qualified candidates have been issued. New classes are scheduled to commence with effect from 24-10-2011.

Independence Day Celebrations, 14th August 2011

On 14th August, 2011 a special function was organized by the students / Trainee officers of Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar at hostel No. 03 to celebrate the Independence Day. Director Forest Education Division graced the occasion as Chief Guest, and all faculty members attended the function.



The DFE, faculty and students singing the national anthem



Mr. Arif Orakzai DFO Wildlife conducting visit to Ayubia National Park

After recitation from the Holy Quran students presented National Anthem. Participants delivered various speeches and acknowledged the importance of the day by quoting examples from past and present. The speakers concluded that independence is a blessing of Allah and we got it by the sacrifices of our elders and we should protect it by striving hard to get the professional excellence.

All faculty members expressed their heart felt feelings on the occasion and advised the students to take keen interest in training, education and research to serve the country in a better way. In his speech, the Director Forest Education gave the historical perspective of the Independence Day and highlighted the role and responsibilities of students and trainee officers to safeguard this sacred gift for our coming generation.

Marathon race 2011

Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar prepares its students mentally as well as physically so that they can perform their occupational duties effectively. Conducting annual marathon race is one of such activities. The annual marathon race 2011 was held on 24-09-11 between 4.00 am to 5.00 am inside the Peshawar University campus. The race was conducted on a

total of 10 km distance. Both M.Sc and B.Sc classes of sessions 2009-11 and 2010-12 took part in the event. First position was secured by Mr. Rashid, student of B.Sc forestry 2010-12 session, by covering the distance in 31 minutes. 2nd and 3rd positions were secured by Naik Alam and Ch. Sakeel by covering the distance in 32 and 33 minutes respectively. Officers and officials played their role in making the event successful by proper supervision of the event. The Director Forest Education emphasized on the importance of physical activities such as marathon race and other sports in PFI and announced prizes for the winners, organizer and facilitator of the marathon race.



DFE congratulating winner of the race

Examinations and Results

The University of Peshawar announced the results of 2nd term annual examinations of M.Sc and B.Sc forestry courses (session 2009-2011) and 1st term annual examinations of M.Sc and B.Sc forestry courses (session 2010-2012).

WORKSHOP ON Development of National Response Strategy to Combat Impacts of Climate Change on Forest of Pakistan

A one day regional consultative workshop on "Development of National Response Strategy to Combat Impacts of

Climate Change on Forest of Pakistan" was held at Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar on 8th September, 2011. Hon'ble Minister for Environment Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Wajid Ali Khan honoured the workshop as a chief guest. Senior officers of Environment Department, Chief Conservator, representative of Environmental Protection Agency, veteran and senior foresters, researchers, academicians and experts from relevant fields attended the event.

Climate Change Response Strategy in forestry sector is a set of guidelines to cope with the biophysical and social vulnerability of forest ecosystems arising from climate change. The biophysical vulnerability of forest ecosystems can be assessed according to the biomes where forests exist and the ecological niches that they occupy. In Pakistan, like other countries in Asia-Pacific region, the dynamics of economy and demographic factors of high densities in proximity to forests implies that the vulnerability of both ecosystems and communities to climate change is of higher order and requires formulation and implementation of effective strategies and action plans. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) sharing the findings and conclusions of the study on climate change conducted by PFI and proposed strategies and action plans for adaptation and for its impacts of climate change on forests, and (ii) obtain inputs and views of, and build consensus of stakeholders on these strategies and action plans.

Director General, Pakistan Forest Institute, Syed Said Badshah Bukhari briefed the participants about salient findings of the study. The study conducted by PFI indicates that Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change risks is likely to increase in future, as projected temperature rise is significantly higher (1.1°C and 6.4°C) as compared to 20th century (0.6°C). It is interesting for the climatologists and natural resource managers that climate change is a spatio-temporal phenomenon which demands different site specific adaptation and mitigation options.

The participants of the workshop held detailed discussions on the proposed adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans, and provided invaluable inputs towards developing national consensus on the response strategy to climate change in forestry sector. This process of consensus building will be completed through holding of similar workshops in all the provinces and a culminating one at the national level.



Minister of Environment addressing the Workshop members



DG, PFI briefing the participants



Participants of the Workshop

The Hon'ble Minister for Environment highlighted the high priority of the provincial government for protection, conservation and development of forests. He appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) in conducting the study and FAO for financial assistance for the purpose. The Hon'ble Minister assured the participants of the workshop for continued support of the provincial government for implementation of the suggested strategies and action plans for mitigating the impacts of climate change on forests.

INSECT POLLINATORS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS

Naveed Ahmed
Assistant Forest Entomologist

Ecosystem services, defined as the benefits to human welfare provided by organisms interacting in ecosystems. Pollination by wild animals is a key ecosystem service. Pollination is critical to the overall maintenance of biodiversity. In nature, the vast majority of flowering plant species only produce seeds if animal pollinators move pollen from the anthers to the stigmas of their flowers. Without this

service, many interconnected species and processes functioning within an ecosystem would collapse. For pollination in the majority of plants, specialized pollinators are needed to transfer the pollen between conspecific flowers. Worldwide, the number of flower-visiting species is estimated to be close to 300,000. Bees account for 25,000 to 30,000 species and together with flies, butterflies and moths, wasps, beetles, and other some other insect orders encompass the majority of pollinating species. Vertebrate pollinators include bats, non-flying mammals and birds. Approximately 80 percent of all flowering plant species are specialized for pollination by animals, mostly insects. In agro-ecosystems, pollinators are essential for orchard, horticultural and forage production, as well as the production of seed for many root and fibre crops.



Food security, food diversity, human nutrition and food prices all rely strongly on animal pollinators. A global study of how much the production of crops is dependent on animal pollination, based on FAO crop production data, reveals that insect pollinators such as bees, flies, butterflies and moths, and beetles affect 35 percent of the world's crop production. This increased the outputs of 87 of the leading food crops worldwide. Although 60% of the global food production comes from crops that do not depend on animal pollination – mainly staple crops like cereals such as wheat, maize and rice– the remainder, particularly horticultural crops, ensuring nutritional diversity, depend on pollinators.

At last, it can be concluded that insect pollinators have great impact on our lives by not only pollinating our crops and trees but also maintaining the diversity of plants.

RANGE RESEARCH EXPERIMENT AT PFI FIELD STATION SHINKIARI

Ashar Farooq
Range Management Officer

In order to test adaptation and performance of perennial warm season forage grasses under sub-tropical humid conditions of Shinkari, Range Management Officer, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar visited field station Shinkari during the second week of March, 2011 in order to lay out two research experiments of Range Management in collaboration with Upgrading & Reconstruction of PFI, Field Station Shinkari (URFS) Project.

Survey of the surrounding area of field station, Shinkari was carried out to select appropriate site for laying out range experiments. A flat portion near to main building was selected. Site was prepared with the help for tractor ploughing and roughly leveled. After layout work, tuft planting of grasses *Panicum antidotale* (Blue panic), *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Dhamn), *Panicum coloratum*, *Pennisetum orientale* and *Setaria anceps* was carried out and seed of *Medicago sativa*, a perennial legume was sown in alternate rows under the study titled "Performance of growing perennial range forage grasses in mixture with Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), a perennial legume". In the second experiment, Mott elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) was planted at various spacing to test its growth and yield performance.



The field staff of URFS, Shinkari Project was also present at site during layout and planting. They were briefed about the experiments. Protection and maintenance will be their responsibility.

Growth data is being taken on monthly basis and forage yield data will be collected during end of June and October each year during the study period.