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ICFRE-RFRI News Letter

VOL 3 ISSUE 2 JANUARY-MARCH, 2026 [APRIL, 2026 ISSUE













The 10th issue of the ICFRE-RFRI Newsletter offers a glimpse into the scientific and institutional endeavours during January-March, 2026. It highlights the research undertaken, important programmes and events conducted or attended, and the publications brought out by ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat during this period.

The Quarter from January to March 2026 has been a period of notable achievement for ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. The Institute secured three major consultancy projects for Manipur, the Makum Coalfield in Assam, and Mizoram, reflecting its growing credibility in forestry research. On the scientific front, the biological management of root rot disease in Sikkim's forests using *Trichoderma*, and the documentation of a new entomopathogenic bacterial isolate in the NCBI GenBank database, marked significant research milestones. The Institute signed an MoU with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for monitoring CAMPA activities, and with the Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation, Kolkata, to strengthen collaborative research. At ICFRE's 26th Research Policy meeting, Institute scientists presented seven research projects. Community outreach remained strong, with numerous trainings on bamboo, mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting, and livelihood development benefiting local communities across the Northeast. The 77th Republic Day celebrations and the Seva Sankalp Resolution reinforced the Institute's spirit of national service, while workshops promoting Rajbhasha Hindi further advanced its official language mandate.

By presenting the Institute's research achievements and outreach initiatives, this newsletter seeks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and strengthen engagement with the wider forestry and environmental community, including researchers, students, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni
Director, ICFRE-RFRI, JORHAT

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SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Biological Management of Root Rot Disease Implemented in Sikkim Forests

Under the consultancy project on **"Management of root rot disease of *Castanopsis indica* caused by *Phellinus igniarius* in the Soreng and Deythang Mane Dara Reserve Forests of West Sikkim"**, 100 rice husk bags inoculated with *Trichoderma* spp. were applied as a biological control measure for the management of the disease in Soreng.



Entomopathogenic Bacteria Isolated for Biocontrol Research

An entomopathogenic bacterial isolate (EPB2) was successfully isolated and sub-cultured under the ICFRE Plan Project on the management of *Calliteara grotei*. The isolate has been documented in the NCBI GenBank database (Accession No. PQ499032), supporting ongoing biocontrol research.



CONSULTANCIES

Consultancy Project Approved for Development of Volume, Biomass and Carbon Tables

A consultancy project titled **"Development of Volume Equations, Volume Biomass and Carbon Tables for *Gmelina arborea, Schima wallichii, Magnolia champaca* and *Phoebe hainesiana* in Manipur State"** has been approved with funding support from the State Forest Department, Manipur.

Wildlife and Biodiversity Planning Study Taken Up for Makum Coalfield, Assam

A consultancy project titled **"Preparation of Revised Regional Wildlife Plan, Biodiversity Management Plan and Carrying Capacity Study for Makum Coalfield in Assam"** has been approved with funding support from North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), Coal India Limited, Margherita, Assam.

Teak Resource Assessment and CPT Identification Project Approved in Mizoram

A project titled **"Assessment of Availability of Timber, Geospatial Mapping of *Tectona grandis* (Teak) Plantations and Identification of Candidate Plus Trees (CPTs) of Teak in Mizoram"** has been approved with funding support from the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department, Government of Mizoram.

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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

7-9 January, 2026 — Training Programme on Bamboo for Personnel of Other Services Held at Agartala

A three-day training programme on "Bamboo" was organized at ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (ICFRE-LEC), Agartala, for 30 participants from various departments of Tripura. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and focused on enhancing knowledge and awareness of bamboo resources and their applications.



13 January, 2026 — Virtual Consultation on Agroforestry Expansion in Assam

A virtual meeting was held between ICFRE-RFRI, and Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), New Delhi. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI and Dr. Joy Rajbanshi, Programme Lead, Low Carbon Economy Team, CEEW attended the meeting.





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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

Pre-Thesis Seminar of Ph.D Scholars Conducted

23 January, 2026

A Pre-Thesis Seminar of Ph.D. Scholars was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, providing a platform for scholars to present their research progress and received expert feedback. Shri Mohit Singh and Shri Arghya Chakraborty presented their research findings followed by a interactive session.

Training on Research Methodology and Research Management for ICFRE Scientists

27-31 January, 2026

A weeklong training programme on **"Research Methodology, Research Writing and Research Management"** was organized under the CAMPA-sponsored HRD programme for 20 scientists from eight ICFRE institutes. The programme was attended by Dr. Kartig Neog, Director, CSB-CMERTI, Lahdoigarh, along with Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Dr. R.K. Borah, Group Coordinator (Research), Shri R.K. Kalita, Training Coordinator, and Dr. D.J. Das, Course Director in their respective capacities.














CAMPA-Sponsored Training on Bamboo Resource Development Conducted for ICFRE Personnel

16-20 February, 2026

A week-long training programme on **"Bamboo Resource Development for Addressing Livelihood Concerns of Communities"** was organized under the HRD Programme 2025-26, sponsored by CAMPA, for 20 technical personnel from different ICFRE institutes. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Das, Scientist-F, presented an overview of the Institute, while the programme was coordinated by Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E and Course Director; Dr. Karma Bhutia, Scientist-C and Co-Course Director; and Smt. Tara Kumari, Scientist-B and Co-Course Director. The training focused on bamboo resource development and livelihood enhancement strategies.






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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

23-25 February, 2026

Training on Bamboo Charcoal Production and Briquetting Conducted

A three-day training programme on **"Bamboo Charcoal Production and Briquetting"** was conducted under the project **"Sustainable Technology for Converting Waste to Wealth by Production of Bamboo Charcoal for Livelihood Promotion,"** sponsored by the National Bamboo Mission. The programme was attended by 22 participants from different parts of Jorhat, Assam. Dr. Runumee Devi Borthakur, invited resource person, delivered technical sessions on bamboo charcoal production for livelihood generation and conducted a practical demonstration on bamboo stacking and ignition in a brick klin. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Das and Dr. Satyam Bordoloi also interacted with the participants on the importance of bamboo value addition and sustainable livelihood development.



24-26 February, 2026

Training on Bamboo Charcoal Production and Briquetting Conducted

A three-day hands-on training programme on **"Mushroom Farming: Cultivation Techniques and Marketing Strategies"** was organized by ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (BRC), Aizawl under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Mizoram. The programme benefitted 25 particpants, including local women from Bethlehem Vengthlang and interns from the Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC), with a focus on mushroom cultivation and entrepreneurship opportunities.



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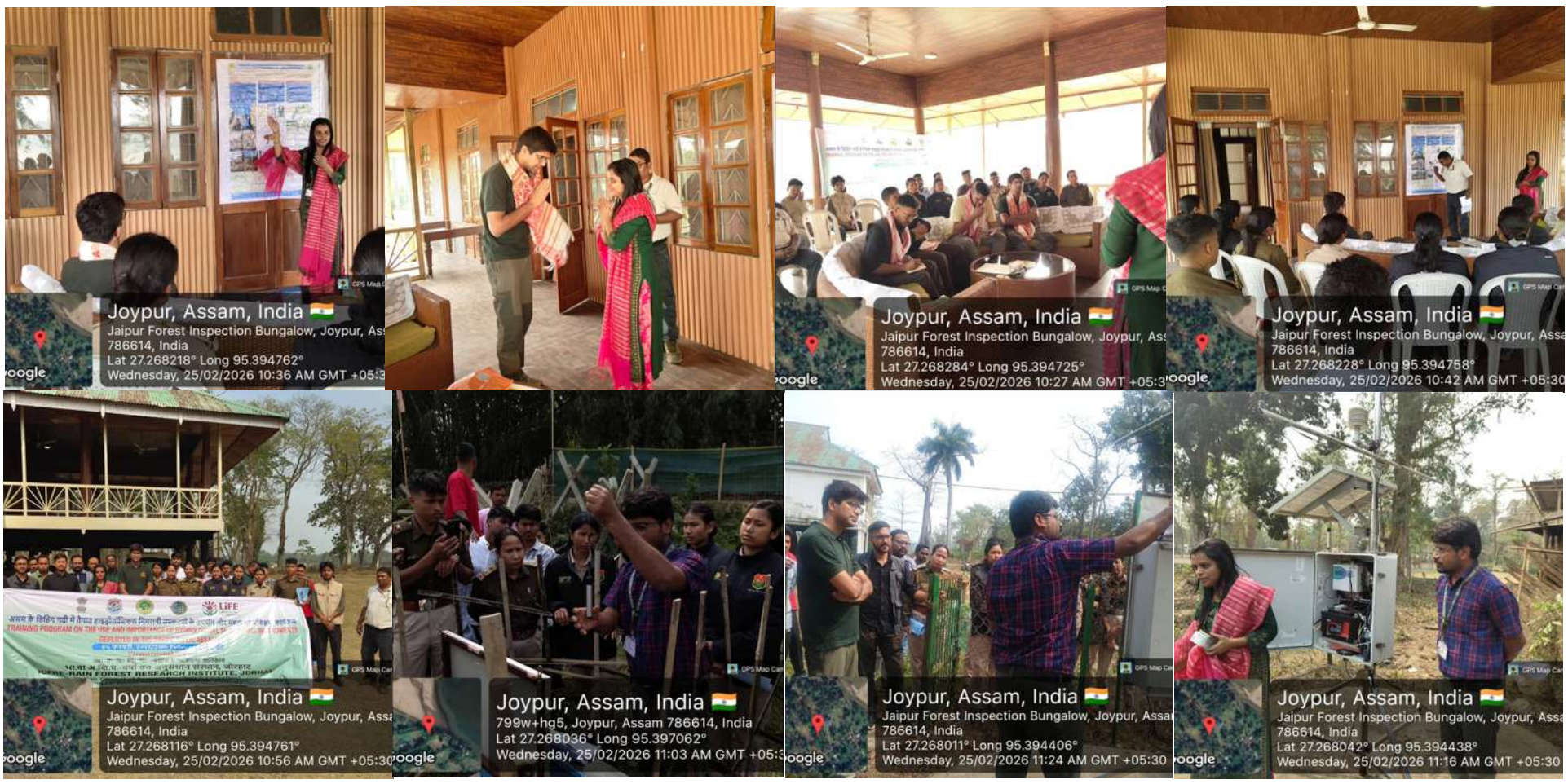
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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

25 February, 2026

Training on Hydrological Monitoring Conducted for Forest Personnel

A training programme on hydrological monitoring instruments was conducted under the project **"Hydrological Modelling for Predicting Runoff in Ungauged Dehing Watershed in Assam using Multisource Satellite Data"** for 24 Forest Range Officers, Foresters, and Forest Guards from the Dibrugarh and Digboi Forest Divisions, Assam. Shri Sanshit Bijoy, IFS, Assistant Conservator of Forests, highlighted the role of forests in hydrology, while Dr. Nibedita Guru, Scientist-C and Project Investigator, delivered a poster presentation. Dr. Nibedita Guru, Shri Jagat Ballav Ghosh, and Shri Ranjan Hazarika conducted the practical field demonstration of hydrological monitoring instruments installed in the Dihing River.



12-14 March, 2026

Skill Development Training on Bamboo Shoot Processing Conducted

A three-day Skill Development Training Programme on **"Bamboo Shoot Processing and Value Addition"** was organized under the sponsorship of the National Bamboo Mission, Government of India. The programme was attended by 22 participants from different parts of Jorhat, Assam. The training was conducted by Smt. Raziya Rahman, Razi's Food Processing Unit, Jorhat, and coordinated by Shri R.K. Kalita, Group Coordinator (Research) and Course Director. Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E, Shri D.K. Meena, Scientist-E, and Shri Kumud Borah, Senior Technical Officer, also interacted with the participants during the programme.



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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

12-21 March, 2026

Training on Bamboo Handicrafts Conducted for Women SHGs in Tripura

A ten-day training programme on **"Bamboo Handicrafts Utility and Products"** was organized at Kamalasagr, Sepahijala District, Tripura, under the CAMPA-Extension Programme. The training benefited 24 women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Sepahijala District. The programme was conducted by Shri Atanu Saha, DCF, ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, and was attended by Smt. Antara Sarkar Deb, Hon'ble MLA, Kamalasagar Constituency and Shri Kishore Roy, Pradhan, Madhupur Gram Panchayat.



Pre-Thesis Seminar and RAC Meeting of Ph.D Scholars Held

16 March, 2026

A Pre-Thesis and Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting of Ph.D scholars was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI. Smt. Geetashri Borah presented her Pre-Thesis Seminar, while Smt. Khwairakpam Rolince presented her six-monthly progress report. The programme was attended by around 50 scientists, Ph.D scholars, and Junior Project Fellows. (JPF).



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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED

24-25 March, 2026

Low-Cost Vermicomposting Training Conducted in Tripura

A two-day training programme on low-cost vermicomposting was organized at Nagaon under the CAMPA-Extension Programme. The training benefited 15 members of Sohag Self-Group Group (SHG) from Bamutia RD Block, West Tripura District. The programme included hands-on practical training on vermicomposting techniques, and information leaflets in the local language were distributed to the participants.







Monthly Seminar Highlighted Advances in Soil Carbon Research

24-25 March, 2026

A monthly seminar on **"Advances and Prospects of Soil Carbon Research under Climate Change Scenarios"** was delivered by Dr. Kingshuk Modak, Scientist-C. The presentation was followed by an interactive discussion involving scientists, officers, students, and technical personnel. The seminar, attended by 70 participants, was coordinated by Smt. Tara Kumari, Scientist-B and Nodal Officer, Monthly Seminar Series.













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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

10 January, 2026

Representastion at Training Programme on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, attended the inaugural session of the training programme on **"Advances in Soil Resource Information Using Remote Sensing & GIS for Agricultural Land Use Planning"** organized by ICAR-NBSS & LUP, Jorhat.

Participation in the High-Powered Steering Committee Meeting of NIRANTAR

12 January, 2026

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the 4th Meeting of the High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) of the National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) held at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.



18 January, 2026

Training for students on making indigenous products from bamboo and cane at Jungleblock High School, Mariani

Mariyani Jungle Block High School, located along the Assam-Nagaland border, organized a training programme on **"Bamboo and cane handicraft making to promote Assam's traditional crafts and strengthen rural livelihoods"**. Shri Bhuban Kachari, Senior Technical Officer, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, participated as the resource person and highlighted the cultural, social, and economic importance of bamboo and cane handicrafts. The programme provided hands-on training in making various bamboo and cane products, with active support from local artisans and the school authorities. The initiative aimed to preserve indigenous craftsmanship, encourage self-employment, and inspire students to value and carry forward Assam's rich cultural heritage.









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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

20 January, 2026

Participation in Jorhat Science Festival

The Jorhat Science Festival, organized by the Assam Science Society, Jorhat Branch, was held at Dr. J.N. Baruah Khetra, Borbheta, Jorhat. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the programme and delivered an insightful speech on the occasion.





Participation in Administrative Committee Meeting of NIRANTAR

29 January, 2026

The 6th Meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilence (NIRANTAR) was held at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the meeting.

Participation in Standing Consultative Committee Meeting

12 February, 2026

The Standing Consultative Committee Meeting of the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Meghalaya was held at Sylvan House, Shillong. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, participated in the meeting in his capacity as a member of the committee.

ICFRE-RFRI Scientists Participated in CAMPA-HRD Training on Clone Development and Breeding Trials

16-20 February, 2026

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Prajapat, Dr. Prem Cahnd Gyani, and Shri Amitava Roy, Scientist-B, participated in the CAMPA-HRD training programme on **"Establishment and Data Analysis of Breeding Trial for Clone Development and Releases"** held at ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore.



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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Delivered Invited Lecture on Agroforestry and Carbon Markets at Joint Area Scientific Symposium 2026

Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Das, Scientist-F, participated in the Joint Area Scientific Symposium 2026, organized by the Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat, and delivered an invited lecture titled **"Forest Degradation to Carbon Opportunities: Agroforestry and Carbon Markets as Climate Solutions for North-East India."** The lecture highlighted the role of agroforestry, carbon markets, and research institutions such as ICFRE-RFRI and Tocklai Tea Research Institute in addressing climate challenges in Northeast India.








Dr. Rakesh Kumar Prajapat Participated in CAMPA-HRD Training on Forestry Statistics

23-27 February, 2026

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Prajapat, Scientist-B, participated in the CAMPA-HRD training programme on **"Statistical Methods in Forestry Research"** held at the Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP), Ranchi.

Participation in Departmental Promotion Committee Meeting

25 February, 2026

The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) Meeting was held at ICFRE, Dehradun, with Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated through virtual mode.

Seven Research Projects Presented at XXVI Research Policy Committee Meeting

26-27 February, 2026

A total of seven research projects were presented by the Institute's scientists during the XXVI Research Policy Committee (RPC) Meeting of ICFRE, held at ICFRE, Dehradun. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE, also participated in the meeting and deliberations through virtual mode.



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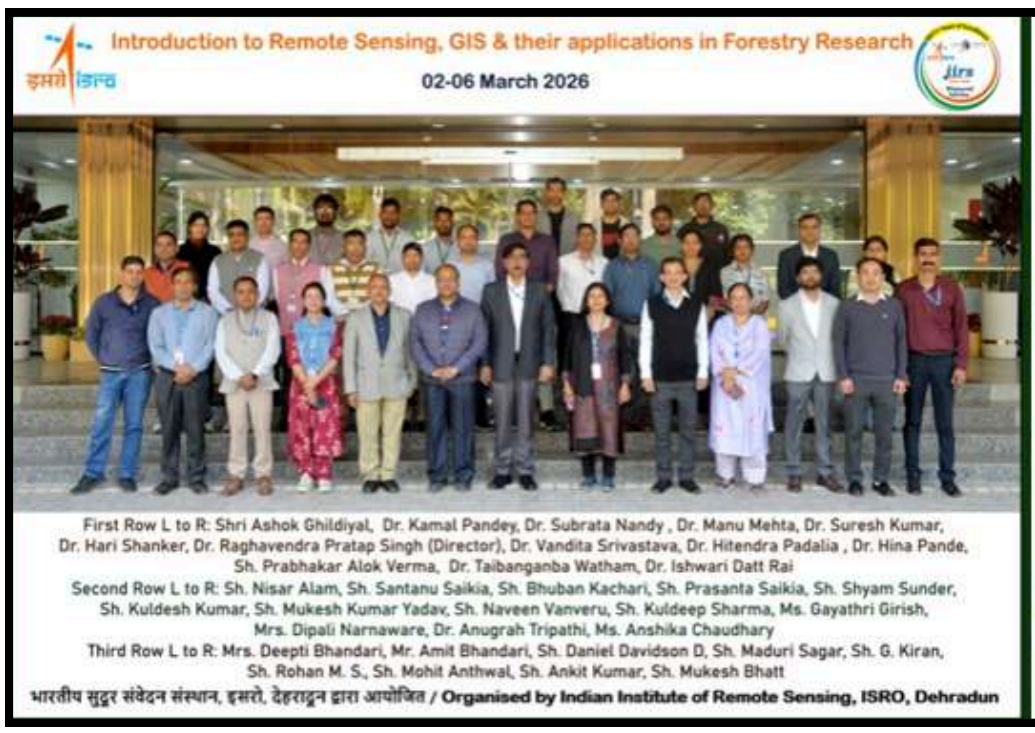
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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

02-06 March, 2026

Technical Personnel Participate in Training on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications

Shri Prasanta Saikia, Senior Technical Officer; Shri Bhuban Kachari, Senior Technical Officer; and Shri Santanu Saikia, Technical Officer, participated in the training programme **"Introduction to Remote Sensing, GIS and their Application in Forestry Research for Technical Personnel of ICFRE"** held at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun. The programme focused on enhancing technical competencies in the application of remote sensing and GIS technologies in forestry research.





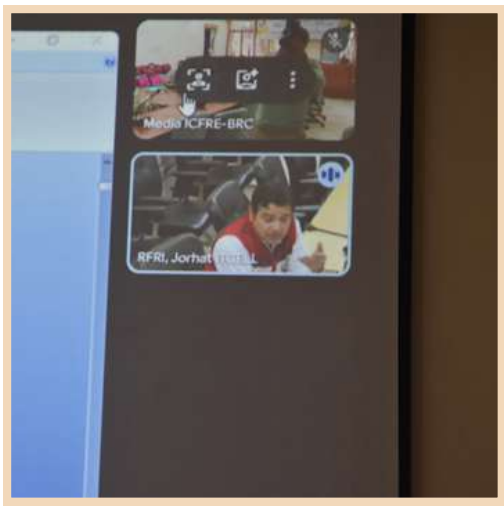
05 March, 2026

Participation in Meeting on Distribution of Scientific and Technical Posts

A meeting to examine the distribution of posts of Scientists and Technical Staff across ICFRE Headquarters and its Institutes/Centres was held at ICFRE, Dehradun. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE, participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

05 March, 2026

Shri Rajarishi Bhattacharyya Delivered Expert Lecture on Waste-to-Wealth Approaches





Shri Rajarishi Bhattacharyya, Senior Technical Officer, participated as a resource person in the Green Skill Training on **"Introduction to Composting and Apiculture"** organized under VVK, Mizoram by ICFRE-BRC, Aizawl. He delivered a presentation titled "Waste to Wealth and Health- A Sustainable Approach Through Home Composting" through virtual mode. The presentation highlighted circular economy-based waste management and entrepreneurship opportunities, including home composting, Azolla cultivation, liquid fertilizer production, and conversion of plastic waste into fuel.

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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

09-13 March, 2026

ICFRE-RFRI Scientists Participate in Advanced Training on Molecular Biology Techniques

Dr. Karma G. Bhutia, Scientist-C, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Prajapat, Scientist-B, and Shri Amitava Roy, Scientist-B, participated in the "Advanced Training on Molecular Biology Techniques" conducted at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Generic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi.





10 March, 2026

Participation in Departmental Review Committee Meeting for Scientist-B Recruitment

The Department Review Committee Meeting for the interview of candidates for the post of Scientist-B was held at ICFRE, Dehradun. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

12 March, 2026

Project on Strengthening Analytical Capabilities for Agarwood Research Presented at MoEFCC

A project titled "Strengthening and Upgradation of Analytical Capabiities for Agarwood and NTFPs Research as per the CITES Investigation Requirements at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat" was presented at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI

13 March, 2026

Participation in International Conference on Environmental Challenges and Bioresource Innovations

The International Conference on Environmental Challenges and Bioresource Innovations for a Sustainable Future (ICECBISF) was held at B. Barooah College (Autonomus), Guwahati. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the conference, which focused on emerging environmental challenges and innovative approaches for sustainable development.

17-18 March, 2026

Participation in RICH-NE Inaugural Ceremony and Collaborative Research Deliberations

The inaugural ceremony of the Research and Innovation Cluster Hub of Northeast India (RICH-NE) was held at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, as part of its 66th Foundation Day celebrations. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the programme and the CSIR-NEIST LED brainstorming meeting, where heads of research and academic institutions from the Northeast Region discussed the formation of a consortium for collaborative research under the RICH-NE initiative.

18-20 March, 2026

Smt. Tara Kumari Presented Research at ICAHFAS-2026

Smt. Tara Kumari, Scientist-B, participated in the 13th International Conference ICAHFAS-2026 on Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Allied Sciences for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem held at Shimla. She delivered an oral presentation titled "Degredation of Forests in India: Causes and Restoration Efforts."

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PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

21-22 March, 2026

Participation in National Workshop on Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy

The National Workshop on "Promoting Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy: Issues and Challenges" was held at ICFRE, Dehradun, Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, participated in the workshop.

27 March, 2026

Director, ICFRE-RFRI, as Chief Guest at National Seminar on Environment Issues and Sustainable Development

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, attended the National Seminar on "Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat" at Kakojan College, Jorhat, as Chief Guest and shared his insights on environmental sustainability.








27 March, 2026

Dr. Dhruba J. Das Delivered Invited Lecture Smart Forestry at National Seminar

Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Scientist-F, delivered an invited lecture at the Natioanl Seminar on "Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat" held at Kakojan College, Jorhat. His lecture, titled **"Smart Forestry: Geoinformatics-Driven nSolutions for Sustainability and Climate Resilience in North East India."** Highlighted the role of RS-GIS technologies, invasive species management, and long-term forest monitoring in addressing environmental and climate challenges.





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PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS/ TREE GROWERS' MELA

9-10 January, 2026

Institute Showcased Research at Mega Faarmers' Fair

The Institute participated in the two-day **"Mega Farmers' Fair"** organized by Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat. Through an exhibition stall, the Institute showcased its research and development activities, highlighting technologies and innovations in forestry for farmers, students, and stakeholders.













9-10 January, 2026

ICFRE-RFRI Showcased Research at Jorhat Science Festival

The Institute participated in the three-day Jorhat Science Festival, organized by the Assam Science Society, Jorhat, at Borbheta, Jail Road, Jorhat. Through an exhibition stall, the Institute showcased its research and development activities, highlighting forestry technologies and innovations to students, researchers, and the general public.





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PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS/TREE GROWERS' MELA

17-18 March, 2026

ICFRE-RFRI Showcased Technologies at Farmers' Fair

ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (LEC), Agartala participated in the Farmers' Fair held at the College of Agriculture, Tripura, from 17-18 March 2026. Through an exhibition stall, the Centre showcased its research, extension activities, and forestry-based technologies, promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities among farmers and other stakeholders.







MoUs

24 January, 2026

MoU Signed for Monitoring and Evaluation of CAMPA Activities

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shri P.Subramanyam, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, for monitoring and avaluation of CAMPA activities.



21 February ,2026

MoU signed with PFRI to Strengthen Collaborative Research

The Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI), the research wing of the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE), Kolkata, to promote evidence-based research and strengthen field-level implementation. The MoU was signed by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, and Dr. Malancha Dey, Director, PFRI, in the presence of Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Das, Scientist-F; Smt. Shahina N.N., Scientist-B; Dr. Chandryi Sengupta, PFRI; and other scientists of the Institute.





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VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

1-2 January, 2026

Industree Foundation, Bengaluru Explored Collaboration with the Institute





Shri Neju George, CEO, and Smt. Remya Devan, Senior Manager, Industree Foundation, Bengaluru, visited the Institutte to explore collaborative opportunities for strengthening the bamboo-sub sector in North East India. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, briefed the visitors on the Institute's research and development activities. Discussions focused on potential collaboration in bamboo resource development, value addition and composites, nursery technology and propagation, and carbon and biomass profiling of commercially important bamboo species.

3 February 2026

ISKON Delegation Visited the Institute





Shri Jai Chaitanya Das, Senior Vice President, ISKCON, Bengaluru, and Shri Narayan Das, Senior Devotee, ISKCON, Golaghat, Assam, visited the Institute. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, held discussions with the visitors and the Institute Scientists on its research and development activities and potential areas of mutual interest.

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VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

6 February 2026

Balipara Foundation Explored Collaboration with the Institute



Shri Ranjit Barthakur, Founder, Balipara Foundation, Assam, along with three officials of the Foundation, visited the Institute. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, held discussions with the delegation on the Institute's research and development activities and potential areas of collaboration.The delegation also visited the Bambusetum, Nursery, Bamboo Museum and Interpretation Centre, Bamboo Charcoal and Preservation Treatment Units, and Bamboo Composite Centre.The visitors appreciated the Institute's initiatives and expressed interest in future collaborative programmes.

TRIVIA

Rare new flowering plant discovered in Nagaland's community- protected forest



The newly described species, named *Hoya nagaensis*, a member of the "wax plant family" was discovered in Kavunhou Community Reserved Forest in Phek district, some 110 kilometers from the capital Kohima during systematic botanical surveys of high-altitude forests.

The plant belongs to the Hoya genus, known for its waxy, star-shaped flowers and milky latex, and was found growing in a temperate forest ecosystem that remains largely unexplored by science.

The discovery was led by Dr. Gyati Yam, Assistant Professor in the Department of Forestry, Nagaland University, along with researchers Vieneite-o- Koza and Joynath Pegu.

Sources for verification: Nagaland Tribune, news report, 10 January, 2026

Zoological Survey of India Announces Landmark Discovery of Two new species of Lichen moths and Seven new species records from Indian Himalaya


Asura buxa Bhattacharya, S. Singh & N. Singh, 2026

Caulocera hollowayi S. Singh, N. Singh & Bhattacharya, 2026

Scientists at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have announced the discovery of two new species of Lepidoptera, marking a historic milestone in Indian entomology. The discovery of *Caulocera hollowayi* S Singh. N. Singh & Bhattacharya, 2026 and *Asura buxa* Bhattacharya, S. Singh & N. Singh, 2026 lichen moths are described by an Indian research team.

Sources for verification: Zoological Survey of India, March 2026, e-News

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CELEBRATIONS & OBSERVATIONS

26 January, 2026

77th Republic Day Celebrated with Patriotic Fervour













2 March, 2026




All scientists, officers, and staff members of the Institute solemnly took the **"Seva Sankalp Resolution"**. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, administered the Resolution in Hindi and highlighted the role of research organizations in advancing its objectives. Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Scientist-F and Head, Silviculture and Forest Management Division, read the English version of the Resolution. The programme concluded with a discussion on its effective implementation.

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RAJBHASHA ACTIVITIES

9 February, 2026

Rajbhasha Lecture and Hindi Workshop Organized at ICFRE-RFRI



A G.D. Birla Memorial Lecture was organized under the aegis of the Town-Official Lnguage Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Jorhat, and sponsored by UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Jorhat, at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, at ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. On the occasion, Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, delivered an insightful lecture on the theme **"Sustainable Mangement of Natural Resources for Climate Change Mitigation."** The programme was attended both online and offline by representatives of TOLIC member offices, officials of UCO Bank, Jorhat, and officers and staff of ICFRE-RFRI, including its centres at Agartala and Aizawl. On the same day, a Hindi Workshop on the theme **"Use of IT Tools in Official Language Implementation"** was also organized at the Institute. Shri Amardeep Kumar, Rajbhasha Officer, UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Jorhat, served as the resource person and shared practical insights on the effective use of information technology for promoting the implementation of Hindi in official work.

20 March, 2026

Rajbhasha Hindi Workshop on Hindi Monthly Report Preparation



ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, organized a Rajbhasha Hindi Workshop on the topic **"Hindi Monthly Report Preparation."** A total of 25 Hindi Nodal and Link Officers/employees from ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre (ICFRE-LEC), Agartala, and ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl, participated in the workshop. Shri Shankar Shaw, Junior Tarnslation Officer, ICFRE-RFRI, served as the resource person and delivered a comprehensive session on the preparation of Hindi monthly reports. The workshop was coordinated by Shri Sonkeswar Sharma, Hindi Nodal Officer & Scientist-C, and Dr. Premchand Gyani, Hindi Link Officer & Scientist-B.

25 March, 2026

Quarterly Meeting of State Language Implementation Committee Held





The Quarterly Meeting of the State Language Implementation Committee was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI. The meeting was attended by the Heads of Daivisions, Sections, and Centres, and reviewed the use of Official Language Hindi during the previous quarter. Dr. Kulkarni emphasized strengthening the implementation of the Official Language Policy and directed the organization of a Hindi workshop in the ensuing quarter to enhance awareness of the provisions of the Official Language among officers and staff.

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ACTIVITIES UNDER VVK

24-26 February, 2026

Hands-on Training on Mushroom Farming Conducted under VVK

ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl, organized a three-day hands-on training on **"Mushroom Farming: Cultivation Techniques and Marketing Strategies"** under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Mizoram. The programme was attended by 25 local women from Bethlehem Vengthlang and interns from the Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC), providing practical exposure to mushroom cultivation and marketing strategies.



5-6 March, 2026

Green Skills Training on Composting and Apiculture Conducted under VVK



ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl, organized a two-day Green Skills Training on **"Introduction to Composting and Apiculture"** under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Mizoram. The programme was attended by 20 participants from Bethlehem Vengthlang, Aizawl, and focused on promoting sustainable livelihood skills through composting and beekeeping.

16-20 March, 2026

Hands-on Training on Bamboo Handicrafts Conducted under VVK



ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl, organized a week-long hands-on training on **"Introduction to Bamboo Hnadicrafts: Learning the Art and Trade"** under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Mizoram. The programme was attended by 20 participants from Edenthar Veng, Aizawl, providing practical training in bamboo handicraft making and entrepreneurship.

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ACTIVITIES UNDER VVK

19-20 March, 2026

Skill Development Training on Forestry Conducted under VVK, Nagaland





A two-day Skill Development Training on Forestry was organized under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Nagaland, at SEFTI, Dimapur, with support from CAMPA-Extension, ICFRE-RFRI, and the State Environment & Forestry Training Institute (SEFTI), Dimapur. The programme was attended by 39 participants, including frontline staff from 16 Forest Divisions of Nagaland and members of NGOs. Dr. Girish Gogoi, ACTO; Shri Kumud Borah, STO; and Shri Rajarishi Bhattacharyya, STO, served as resource persons. Shri Imitongdang Ozukum, Assistant Director, SEFTI, Dimapur; Shri Sapu Changkija, Director, Resource Organization on Jhum and Biodiversity, Dimapur; and Shri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Mokokchung, also participated in the programme.

Skill Development Training on Forestry Conducted under VVK, Arunachal Pradesh





A two-day Skill Development Training on Forestry was organized under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Arunachal Pradesh, at Arunachal Pradesh Forest Training Institute (APFTI), Roing, with support from CAMPA-Extension, ICFRE-RFRI. The programme was attended by 20 participants, including frontline staff from various Forest Divisions of Arunachal Pradesh and members of NGOs. Dr. Tajum Doni, Scientist-C, Shri Nada Tadi, Scientist-C; Shri Kumud Borah, STO; and Shri Rajarishi Bhattacharyya, STO, served a resource persons. Shri Prem Kumar, IFS, Director, APFTI, and Shri Sumit Choudhary, ACF and Faculty Officer, APFTI, also participated in the programme.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

23 January, 2026

Demonstration of Bamboo and Livelihood Technologies for BRTC Students







An environmental awareness programme was conducted highlighting bamboo cultivation and propagation, nursery management, value addition and preservation techniques, bamboo charcoal production, lac cultivation, vermicomposting, agar plantation and various research and development activities of the Institute. The programme was attended by Mr. Neju, CEO, and Smt. Remya Devan, Senior Manager, Industree Foundation, Bengaluru.

30 January, 2026

NBSS&LUP Trainees Visited the Institute for Exposure to Forestry Research and Geospatial Applications







A group of 24 trainees from ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Regional Centre, Jorhat, visited the Institute as part of their training programme on **"Advances in Soil Resource Information Using RS & GIS for Agricultural Land Use Planning."** Dr. Dhrubajyoti Das, Head, Silviculture & Forest Management Division, delivered a presentation on "Applications of RS and GIS in Forest, Ecology and Management: Role of ICFRE-RFRI." The trainees also visited various research and development facilities and activities of the Institute.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

2 February, 2026

D. Pharma Students Visited Botanical Garden for Field Learning





A group of 30 first-year D. Pharma students and faculty members from Ayush Pharmacy Institute, Sri Sri Dakhinpat Satra, Jorhat, visited the Botanical Garden to gain practical exposure to the taxonomy, applications, and ecology of plant species as part of their Pharmacognosy curriculum. Dr. Tajum Doni, Scientist-C, and Dr. Girish Gogoi, ACTO, guided the participants during the field visit and interaction sessions.

3-7 February, 2026

Exposure Visit of Odisha Government Officers Highlighted Forestry Research and Development





An exposure visit was organized for 24 officers of the Panchayat Raj and Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha, under the sponsorship of the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Odisha. Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Head, Silviculture & Forest Management Division, delivered a presentation on the Institute's research and development activities, while Dr. Subrat Kumar Mishra, Deputy Director, SIRD&PR, Odisha, interacted with the participants. The programme was coordinated by Smt. Tara Kumari, Scientist-B.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

4 February, 2026

NABARD Officials Explored Opportunities for Collaboration in Forestry and Livelihood Development







An exposure visit was organized for 30 oficers of NABARD, Regional Office, Guwahati, including Shri Loken Das, Chief General Manager, and Shri Qamar Javed, General Manager, along with District Development Managers and Assistant Managers from across Assam. Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Head, Silviculture & Forest Management Division, presented the Institute's research and development activities, followed by discussions on potential collaboration in bamboo, agarwood, agroforestry, carbon credits, skill development, and capacity building. The visiting team also toured the Bamboo Museum, Bambusetum, bamboo nursery, agar plantation, bamboo charcoal production unit, and tissue culture laboratory, with field guidance provided by Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E & Head, Genetics & Tree Improvement Division, Shri Kumud Borah, Senior Technical Officer, and Shri Bhuban Kachari, Senior Technical Officer.

4 February, 2026

Exposure Visit of FEEDS Group of Institutions Students to Forestry Research Facilities







An exposure visit was organized for 16 undergraduate students and faculty members from FEEDS Group of Institutions, Kangpokpi, Mnaipur. Shri R.K. Kalita, Group Coordinator (Research) and Head, Extension Division, delivered a presentation on the Institute's research and development activities. The participants also visited the Bamboo Museum, Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, Bamboo Charcoal Production Unit, Tissue Culture Laboratory, and Insectarium.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

5 February, 2026

Training-cum-Exposure Visit Conducted for Farmers from Dibrugarh



A Training-cum-Exposure Visit Programme was organized for 83 farmers along with Mrs. Triveni Kalita Dutta, Block Technology Manager; Dr. Tapan Kumar Gogoi, Block Technology Manager; and Dr. Ananta Kalita, Assistant Technology Manager, from the Borbaruah and Khowang Development Blocks, Dibrugarh (Assam). Shri R. K. Kalita, Group Coordinator (Research) and Head, Extension Division, delivered a presentation on Forest- Based Livelihood Opportunities in Assam and the Role of ICFRE-RFRI. The participants visited the Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, Bamboo Charcoal Unit, Lac Unit, Vermicomposting Unit, Bah Bithika, and Bamboo Museum.

10 February, 2026

Environmental Awareness Programme for Retired Agriculture Officers



An Environmental Awareness Programme was conducted for 4 retired officers of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam. The programme covered bamboo cultivation and propagation, nursery management, value addition and preservation techniques, bamboo charcoal production, lac cultivation, vermicomposting, agar plantation, and the Institute's research and development activities

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

11 February, 2026

Exposure Visit by Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy Trainees






A group of 34 Range Officer (RFO) trainees undergoing the 18- month Certificate Course at the Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, led by Shri Devender Singh Dogra, Deputy Director, visited the Institute as part of their academic exposure tour. Dr. Dhruba J. Das, Scientist-F and Head, Silviculture and Forest Management Division, delivered a presentation on the Institute's mandate, research programmes, and key achievements. The trainees subsequently visited the Institute's research and demonstration facilities.

07 February- 25 March, 2026

Environmental Awareness and Educational Outreach Programmes

ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat conducted a series of environmental awareness and educational outreach programmes for 461 students and teachers/faculty members from Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, Melachakar, Sivasagar; School of Pharmacy, The Kaziranga University, Jorhat; Gyanjyoti Jatiya Vidyalaya, Jorhat; PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Air Force Station, Jorhat; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Jorhat; and 10 schools of Charaideo district. The programmes covered bamboo charcoal production, lac cultivation, vermicomposting, agar plantation, and the Institute's research and development activities. The visiting groups also toured the Botanical Garden, Bambusetum, Nursey, Bamboo Composite Centre and Insectarium. Dr. Tajum Doni, Scientist-C, Shri Ashish Kr. Dutta, Technician, and Shri Arabinda Deka, Technical Assistant, guided the visitors and demonstrated the Institute's floral and bamboo diversity and research facilities.

07 February- 25 March, 2026





39 students and teachers from Sankardev Sishu- Vidya Niketan, Melachakar, Sivasagar, Assam.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

09 February, 2026



A group of 50 D. Pharma students and faculty members from the School of Pharmacy, The Kaziranga University, Jorhat, Assam

09 February, 2026



8 students and teachers from Gyanjyoti Jatiya Vidyalaya, Jalukanibari, Jorhat, Assam

09 February, 2026



39 students and teachers from Sankardev Sishu- Vidya Niketan, Melachakar, Sivasagar, Assam.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

10 March, 2026





74 students and four teaching/ non teaching staff from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya JNV, Jorhat.

25 March, 2026





50 students along with 10 teachers from 10 schools of Charaideo district, Assam

25 March, 2026

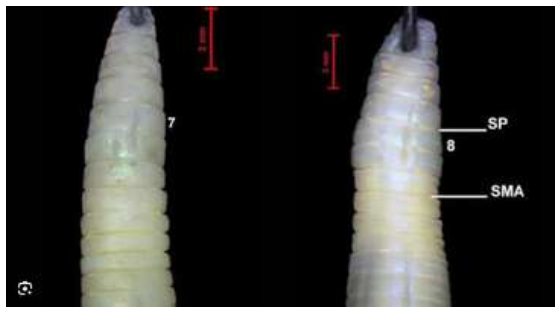
Environmental Awareness Programme Conducted under PRAKRITI

ICFRE-Bamboo and Rattan Centre (ICFRE-BRC), Aizawl, conducted an Environmental Awareness Programme under PRAKRITI (Scientist-Student Connect Initiative) for 200 students of PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Aizawl and 300 students of PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Thuampui. The programme aimed to promote environmental consciousness and encourage scientific understanding of forest and bamboo resources among school students.

TRIVIA

Two New Earthworm Species Discovered in Silent Valley National Park

Researchers have described two new earthworm species, Moniligaster girishi and Drawida reynoldsi, from Silent Valley National Park in Kerala's Western Ghats. Published in the peer-reviewed journal Zootaxa, the study documents specimens collected from tropical wet evergreen forest and montane grassland habitats. With this discovery, India's recognised moniligastrid earthworm diversity has increased to 95 species, including 70 recorded from the Western Ghats.



Sources for verification:

The Hindu: Two new earthworm species discovered in Silent Valley.
Original research paper, Zootaxa, Unearthing hidden diversity: two new moniligastrid earthworms.

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HUMAN RESOURCE NEWS

31 January, 2026

Dr. Rajib Kumar Borah, Scientist-G, superannuated from ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat. On the occasion of his retirement, the Institute conveyed its heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service and extended its best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling post retirement life.

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HUMAN RESOURCE NEWS

31 March, 2026

Shri Rubul Ch. Dutta, ACTO, retired from ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat after rendering dedicated service to the Institute. The Institute expresses its sincere appreciation for his contributions and wishes him a healthy, happy, and fulfilling retired life.



New Appointments

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Joining
1	Arpan Pradhan	MTS	16 Feb. 2026
2	Sujata Kumari	MTS	16 Feb. 2026

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PUBLICATIONS

Research Papers

Tiwari, P., Mundhe, D. S., Deshmukh, P. P., Dobriyal, M.J., Yadav, R. P., Abrol, G. S., ... & Behera, S. (2026). Silvicultural Characterization and Biochemical Variation of Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub. across different diameter classes and localities in the Bundelkhand Region. Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, 10, 1766247. https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2026.1766247

Karmakar, P., Mishra, A. and Pal, S. (2026). Beneficial Insects as Agroforestry Ecosystem Guardians. In: Agroforestry and Climate Change Mitigation: Harnessing Multitrophic Interactions for Sustainable Plant Protection and Ecosystem Resilience (Hanuman Singh Jatav, Vishnu D. Rajput, Ipsita Samal, Tanmaya Kumar Bhoi, Eds.). Apple Academic Press, Inc. Co-published with CRC Press (Taylor & Francis).

Sharma, V., Jain, P. K., Choyal, P., Divte, P. R., Vandna, Prajapat, R. K., & Singh, B. (2026). Iron and Sulphur Cross Talk Regulates the Root System Architecture, Phytosiderophores Biosynthesis and Release and Expression of Fe-PS Transporter in Wheat. Agricultural Research, 1-12.

DID YOU KNOW?



Some Plants Can Survive Extreme Dehydration and Revive

Resurrection plants can lose most of their vegetative water, enter a near-inactive state, and resume metabolic activity after rehydration. Their cellular protection mechanisms are being investigated for insights into drought resilience



Tree Rings Can Record More Than a Tree's Age

Annual growth rings can preserve information about past growing conditions. Depending on the species and region, ring width and wood density can help researchers reconstruct changes in rainfall, temperature, and drought over time.



A Single Banyan Tree Can Look Like an Entire Forest

A banyan tree produces aerial roots from its branches. When these roots reach the ground, they develop into additional supporting trunks. Over time, a single tree can spread across a huge area and resembles a small forest.

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ICFRE-RFRI IN NEWS













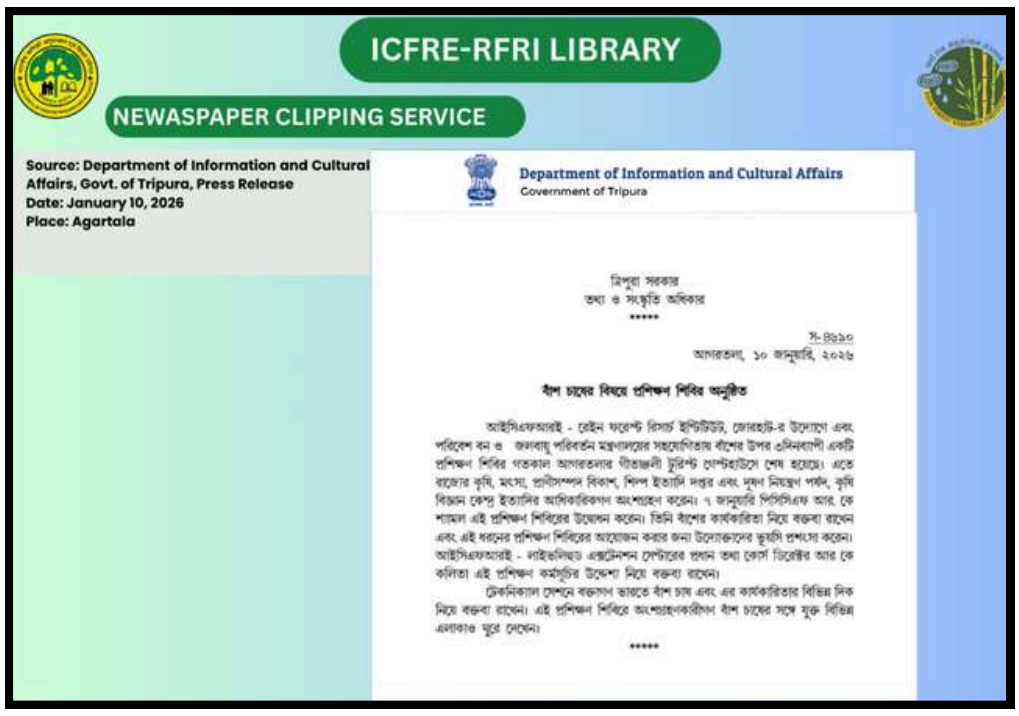
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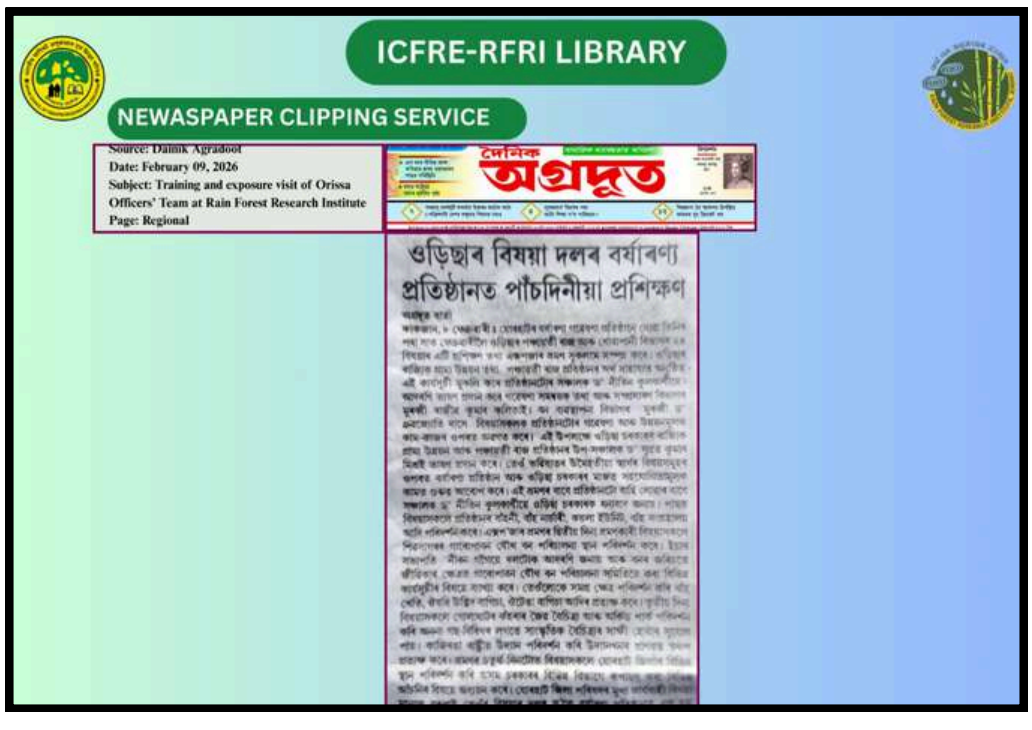












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