



PREFACE

The Indian Forester, during its 143 years journey has brought out so many special issues on the crucial current topics. Owing to the successful accomplishment of XIX Commonwealth Forestry Conference - 2017 at F.R.I., I feel privileged to present this Special issue of Indian Forester to our esteemed readers, subscribers and all associated with the journal.

On behest of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA), the Forest Research Institute at Dehradun (Uttarakhand), India hosted the XIX Commonwealth Forestry Conference - 2017 (CFC) under the auspices of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun from 3 April to 7 April, 2017. This was the second time when India hosted the four yearly event. Earlier, India had hosted CFC in 1968 at New Delhi.

Nearly 700 participants from many Commonwealth countries including India attended the XIX CFC. The XIX CFC with the theme "Forests for Prosperity and Posterity" aimed specifically to deliberate on emerging 'broader' and 'new' perspectives in view of magnified global expectations from world's forests towards the sustainable development goals. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. K.K. Paul, Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand State, India while the Valedictory Function was presided over by Dr. John Innes, Chair, Standing Committee of Commonwealth Forestry Association and Dean, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada. The Conference invited scientific contributions for oral and poster presentations under six sub-themes viz., (i) Biodiversity Conservation and Management, (ii) Diversification, Multiple Use and Sustainable Harvest, (iii) Forest and Climate Change, (iv) Good Governance in Forestry, (v) Livelihood and Economic Security from Forests, and (vi) Forest and Water. These were covered in 19 Technical sessions, four plenary sessions, seven side events, 12 Key Note addresses, two special sessions, 95 Oral presentations and 216 Posters presentations. In addition Field Excursion, Exhibition and Cultural Events were held during the conference. The Conference included a High Level Panel named as the 'Global Forestry Conclave' wherein nine distinguished luminaries in the field of forestry representing different continents discussed 'the role of forestry in implementing international agreements in Commonwealth member nations and beyond moving from "agreed texts" to action on ground. Thus, five days Conference at the magnificent campus of famous Forest Research Institute, Dehradun was full of activities, scientific parleys, excitement, expectations, allied events and lot of stimulation. The Conference provided learned delegates a great opportunity to share knowledge, best practices and experiences on forestry; deliberate on linkages between forests and sustainable development goals; discussions on how to resolve global environmental issues; and interact with world renowned personalities and experts on forestry.

The Conference allowed looking at potential spheres of collaborations, cooperation and scientific exchange in times to come. Overall, it was a meaningful and productive Conference. Certainly, it was great honor and matter of pride for India and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun to host this conference. A Conference Newsletter on daily basis was brought out to keep the delegates updated about the sessions. The Conference revolved around the main theme i.e. 'Forests for Prosperity and Posterity'. Accordingly, the XIX Commonwealth Forestry Conference primarily aimed to address emerging environmental concerns that confront the world at large, review real issues affecting forests and people at large besides providing future direction for sustainable management of our forests and related resources for multiple values and enhanced global expectations.

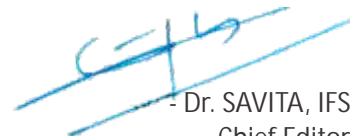
The roles of forests and forestry in supporting countries to achieve “Forests for Prosperity and Posterity”, well-enshrined in the goals and objectives of the global development and climate change agendas, have been reiterated during the XIX CFC. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in its broadest sense underlines such efforts through an appropriate balance between economic, environmental, social and cultural values of the forests.

The contribution of Forestry to national and international agendas is best realized through a strategic transformational change in the way Commonwealth governments; research and education; civil society organizations-including the private sector and development assistance agencies operate. Integrating and coordinating national policies for natural resources management, especially among the forestry, agriculture, water, energy and recreation sectors, is the way forward.

Further to the CFC report and recommendations, Forest Research Institute in collaboration with Commonwealth Forestry Association, the organizers of XIX CFC as well as participants have developed the following messages:

- More active participation of Commonwealth countries in the work of the 'Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry (SCCF)' is crucial for its effectiveness.
- The results of the XIX CFC should be communicated through competent channels, including the SCCF, to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in 2018.
- Identifying mechanisms for the better coordination of education, research and professional forestry amongst Commonwealth countries is an important function of the Standing Committee.
- The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy is an important project that all Commonwealth countries are urged to participate in.
- Organizing the XX conference in 2121 and seeking to identify a host country at the earliest possible opportunity is entrusted to the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry.
- A follow up on these messages should be reported at the XX Commonwealth Forestry Conference.

I hope this special issue will be of immense use for all readers.



- Dr. SAVITA, IFS
Chief Editor