



 Kerala Forest Research Institute

The Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), established in 1975 by the Government of Kerala, is an organization dedicated to research in tropical forestry and biodiversity. It is one of the six R&D institutions of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE). During the past three decades of its existence, the Institute has made valuable contributions to tropical forestry research which has made the Institute known worldwide. In India, KFRI is cited as a model forestry research institution.



Silver Jubilee Block

The main campus of KFRI is located at Peechi in a picturesque, 28 ha reserve forest, about 20 km North-East of Thrissur in Central Kerala. The

Institute has a Subcentre at Nilambur in Malappuram District and a Field Research Centre at Velupadam in Thrissur District. The total staff strength of the Institute is 124 which include 54 scientists, 62 administrative staff and 8 technical staff. In addition, about 70 project staff attached to various research projects provide the necessary research support.

Vision & Mission

The vision of KFRI is to become a centre of excellence in tropical forestry to provide scientific backbone for effective conservation of forest ecosystem and sustainable utilization of natural resources for the benefit of society. The mission is to provide technical support to facilitate scientific management and utilization of forests for social benefits. Accordingly, the Institute envisages to: (i) Conduct inter/multidisciplinary research on priority areas of tropical forestry including wildlife management, socio-economics, indigenous knowledge, value addition of forest products, participatory forest management and livelihood improvement of forest dwellers through scientific management of forest

resources, (ii) Provide technical advice and solutions to practical problems related to forest conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources, and (iii) Disseminate knowledge and information on forest-related matters to end-users, farmers, general public and transfer of technology to stakeholders for social benefits.

Organization

The scientific manpower of KFRI is organized into nine Programme Divisions encompassing different Disciplines for the effective implementation of multidisciplinary research programmes in forestry and to disseminate the research findings to the stakeholders. A Programme Coordinator heads each Programme Division. The nine Programme Divisions are: 1) Sustainable Natural and Plantation Forest Management, 2) Forest Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation, 3) Forest Protection, 4) Forest Utilization, 5) Forestry and Human Dimensions 6) Forest Information Management System, 7) Extension and Training, 8) Library and Information, and 9) Instrumentation. Additionally, the Research Management and Evaluation Unit headed by a Research Coordinator, monitors research activities.

Campuses and Facilities

In the main campus at Peechi, there are laboratories with modern equipment facilities attached to the different Programme Divisions. Some of the other facilities available in the Peechi Campus include a Herbarium comprising 15,000 specimens representing 3,500 species of flowering plants, a collection of about 3,500 specimens of insects and lower vertebrates, a xylarium containing wood samples of 567 tree species, germplasm collections of various tree species, the palmetum, canetum, medicinal plant garden, collections of indigenous ferns and orchids, the central forest nursery and the butterfly garden. The library has 15,000 books, 10,000 back volumes of journals and electronic access to information. The Institute has excellent training facilities attached to the Extension and Training Centre.



Bioresources Nature Park , Nilambur

Also, good facilities are available for holding conferences, workshops and meetings. A well furnished International Trainees Hostel takes care of the accommodation.

The Subcentre at Nilambur located at about 140 km away from the main campus has facilities for laboratory work and field trials in a 43.36 ha area. A Bambusetum with 21 species of bamboos and trial plots of several tree species are maintained at the Subcentre. The Teak Museum - the only one of its kind in the world – and a Bioresource Nature Trail established adjacent to the Museum depicting various biological themes, a model butterfly garden are other attractions in the Subcentre.



Teak Museum, Nilambur

The Field Research Centre (FRC) at Velupadam spread over an area of 47.43 ha is 36 km away from the main campus. Nursery and field trials are the main activities



Bambusetum, Velupadam

at the FRC campus. The KFRI Bambusetum, one of India's largest live collections of bamboos with 65 species, is the special attraction of the FRC campus.



Three and half year old clonal teak plantation, Chettikulam

Activities

Research on various areas of tropical forestry is the main activity of the Institute. Time-bound research projects are undertaken on themes of high priority to address the needs of the stakeholders.

Besides research, technical support is provided to the Kerala Forest Department, other Governmental and non-governmental agencies and farmers on issues posed by them. New technologies developed by the institute are extended to all the stake holders. These include nursery practices, propagation and planting techniques, site evaluation, choice of species for planting, pest and disease control, utilization of timbers from non-conventional sources, etc.

The Institute also undertakes identification of timbers, plants, fungi and animals. Expert advice on other issues of forestry including wildlife management and resource estimation are also provided.

KFRI conducts various client-oriented training programmes and refresher courses. These are designed and conducted for managerial and field level personnel, teachers, artisans, entrepreneurs and representatives of local bodies.

Consultancy services are offered on plantation establishment and management, greening of industrial areas, benchmark studies, environment impact assessment, etc.

Supply of quality seeds and seedlings of various forestry species at reasonable price is also undertaken by the Institute.

KFRI is a recognized research centre of FRI Deemed University, University of Calicut and Cochin University

of Science and Technology for PhD programmes. A number of research fellows pursue their doctoral study at KFRI while working in time-bound research projects.

The Institute brings out a variety of publications which include Research Reports, Information Bulletins, Handbooks and Seminar Proceedings. A half-yearly newsletter 'Evergreen' is also brought out twice a year.

The Institute entertains study visits by students from schools, colleges and universities as well as forestry officials and entrepreneurs interested to acquaint with the research and development activities of the Institute. An open day is also conducted once in a year for the public for the same purpose.

Offices of External Agencies

KFRI campus at Peechi houses offices of a few external agencies. The Kerala Forest Seed Centre which is a collaborative venture of the Kerala Forest Department and



Kerala Forest Seed Centre, Peechi

KFRI is located in the Institute. The Secretariat of FAO's Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) and TEAKNET are the other two offices housed at KFRI. The International Journal of Bamboo and Rattan is presently published from KFRI.

For further details

Dr. K. V. Sankaran

Director

Kerala Forest Research Institute,
Peechi, Thrissur 680 653, Kerala

Phone: 0487 -2690100/ Fax: 0487-2690111

Email: sankaran@kfri.org / director@kfri.org

Website: www.kfri.org