**IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005 AT IFB, HYDERABAD**
**Information provided under the Section 4(1) of the act.**

## 1. Sec.4(b)(i): The particulars of its organization, functions and duties;

### Introduction

INSTITUTE OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY (IFB) located at Dulapally, Hyderabad was initially started as "Advanced Centre for Biotechnology and Mangrove Forests" during July 1997 and later on renamed as "Forest Research Centre, Hyderabad" on 9th July, 1997. In 2012 the centre was upgraded to Institute and renamed as "Institute of Forest Biodiversity". The institute is sprawled over 100 acres campus with well-equipped research infrastructure. Besides the main campus, the institute has one field station at Mulugu and one Forest Research Centre for Coastal Ecology at Visakhapatnam.

### Vision

To attain excellence in conservation of Forest Biodiversity and sustainable utilizationof Forest Genetic Resources for enhancing productivity and livelihood support

### Mission

To pursue focussed research on forest biodiversity in order to develop strategies for conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources, eco-restoration of stressed sites, climate change mitigation and adaptation

### Mandate

The Institute is mandated to carry out research on conservation and sustainable utilization of forest biodiversity of Eastern Ghats, Mangroves and Coastal Ecology

The scope *inter alia* includes:

- To undertake and promote forestry research, education and extension, leading to scientific and sustainable management of biodiversity, including marine and coastal resources
- To provide scientific advice to the central and state governments aiding informed decision making in matters of national and regional importance, international commitments and to address forestry research needs of mandated states
- To provide technical assistance and material support to states, forest dependent communities, forest based industries, tree & NTFP growers and other stakeholders in their forestry based programmes for conservation and

sustainable use of forest resources

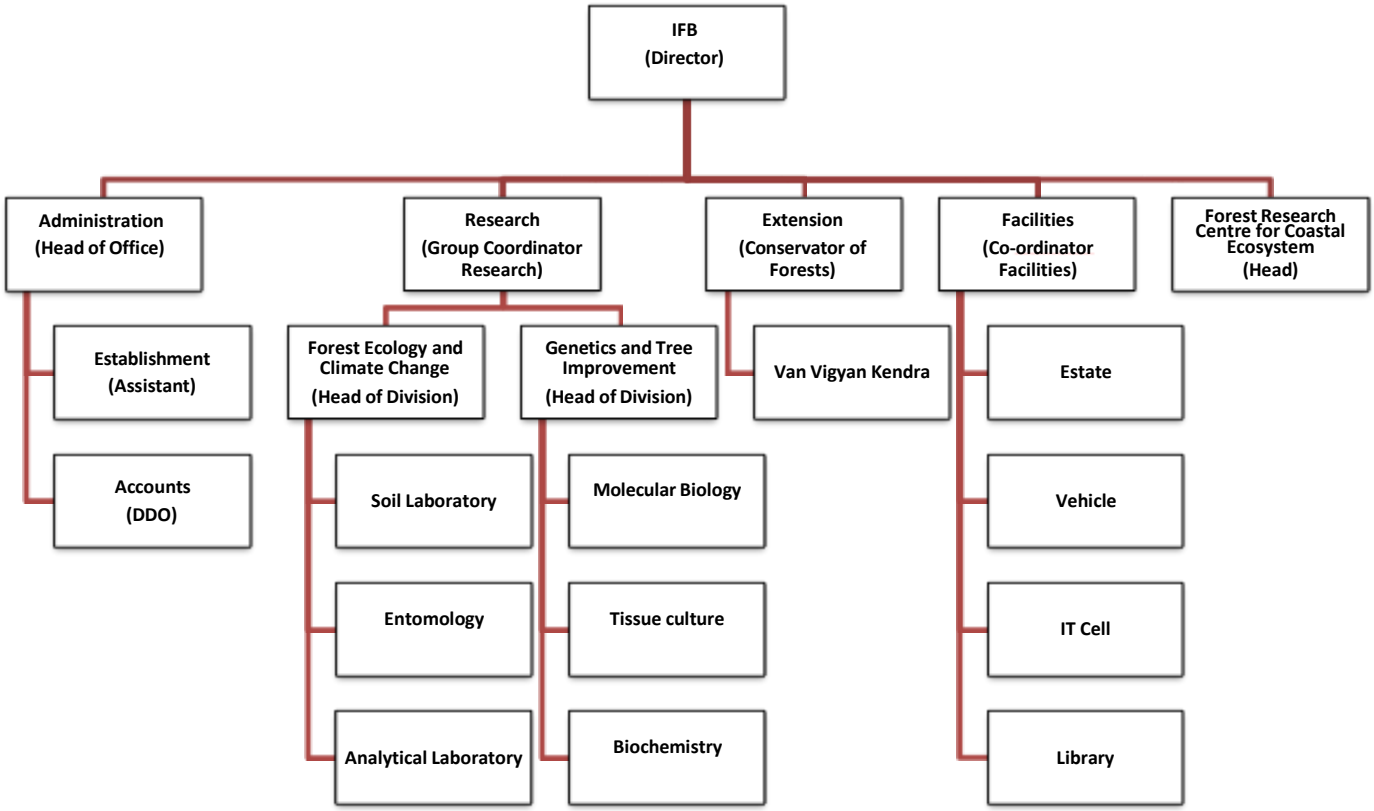
- To develop, upscale, disseminate and share of appropriate technologies to end-users through innovative extension strategies and capacity building programmes
- Quantitative ecological assessment and documentation of biodiversity of Eastern Ghats
- Genetic resource assessment of endemic and rare plants of Eastern Ghats for conservation planning
- *In situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the RET and endemic species of Eastern Ghatsby identifying conservation populations/stands within the protected area networks and other approaches
- Sustainable utilization of Eastern Ghats biodiversity including marine and coastal biodiversity resources by applying the principles of genetic improvement, clonal propagation and agroforestry
- Biodiversity and climate change with emphasis on effects of climate change on the biodiversity of Eastern Ghats, mangrove forests and costal ecology and their mitigation
- Environmental impact assessment of mining and other mega projects on Biodiversity and eco-rehabilitation of stress sites
- To undertake research and knowledge management on various aspects of forests, viz., forest soils, invasive species, NTFPs, forest fires, insect pests and diseases
- To undertake all such activities as necessary, incidental and conducive to attainment of the objectives of the council

## Organisation

The Director, appointed by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), is responsible for day-to-day administration and implementation of programmes.

At present, there are 12 scientists and 3 IFS officers engaged in active research and extension programmes. All scientific staffs have extensive research background and possess expertise in handling multi-disciplinary projects. In addition to the scientific personnel, there are 17 technical and 27 administrative support staffs.

## ORGANIZATION CHART




Research and Extension endeavor of the institute is carried out under following threedivisions:

- ✓ FOREST ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION
- ✓ GENETICS AND TREE IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
- ✓ EXTENSION DIVISION

### Forest Ecology and Climate Change

The division is engaged in projects focussing on conservation of biodiversity, ecology and climate change aspects which are very pertinent as far as addressing the issues related to conservation of ecosystem and environment and also implications of climate change are concerned.

The projects mainly deal with recording and monitoring of frequency, density and growth parameters of the trees, shrubs and herbs, and their regeneration status in all seasons in selected forests. It gives an idea on regeneration, carbon sequestration and productivity, basically a bench mark for the years under reference.

The Division has developed a number of agroforestry systems, which had better land equivalent ratios (LER ratios) in the range of 1.78 to 3.5, depending on tree and crop combinations. Taking lead from these systems, a pilot project on Paddy + Bach (Acorus

calamus) with fish and trees, as an intensive organic farming system is underway. A project on development of agroforestry model with RET species as component is also being implemented.

Further Forests in general are vulnerable to insect pests, diseases, invasive weeds s, forest fires and anthropogenic activities. It is a known fact that considerable reduction in productivity occurs due to these infestations.

Traditional methods of protection against insect pests and diseases are very challenging. Keeping this in view, the Institute is implementing three projects focussing on IPDM approach, including plant based insecticides and biological control

**Genetics and Tree Improvement**

The division carries out research addressing the issues of forest genetic resource conservation, species recovery programme for a endangered species of Eastern Ghats such as *Pterocarpus santalinus, Syzygium alternifolium, Gloriosa superba, Andrographis paniculata, Rauwolfia serpentina etc*., and productivity enhancement of important and commercial species through mass selection and selective breeding which is imperative, considering the low productivity of our forests in general.

As a new initiative at national level in consonance with NFRP, an all India coordinated research project (AICRP) on 'Conservation and productivity improvement of Red sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus L.f.)' has been prepared in collaboration with six other research institutes. Apart from this, the productivity of medicinal plants in terms of active ingredients is also being implemented by the division.

Natural biostimulants not only promote growth by increasing cell division but also influence the biochemical parameter. An ongoing project is trying to address growth and biochemical content enhancement, mainly the reserpine content of Rauwolfia serpentina, utilizing potential natural biostimulants as growth regulator.

**Extension**

Training plays an important role in faster dissemination and in enhancing the capability of end users of research. IFB under its dedicated Extension division is organizing regular training programmes on wide ranging topics like Agroforestry, Forest Genetic Resource Conservation & Management, Integrated Insect Pest Management, Nurseries and Plantations Techniques of Trees and Medicinal Plants etc.

- Several training programmes sponsored by NMPB, NTPC, MoEF&CC etc., conducted for farmers, college teaching staffs and students, staffs of NTPC and other stakeholders
- Till last year 5000 farmers received training in agroforestry and cultivation of medicinal plants

## Information Technology Cell

The Information Technology Cell has been established in the Institute in order to facilitate different research divisions of the institute with the latest facilities in the field of Information Technology. The ITCell has been entrusted for providing the research divisions with the facilities of like - procurement and maintenance of different computing and associated equipments; operation and maintenance of the local area network at the Institute; providing all the research divisions of the Institute with the internet connectivity through the leased line; Operation and maintenance of the Website and implementation of IFRIS. The Information Technology cell is looking after the operation and the maintenance of the local area network at the institute. The local area network of the institute is comprised of 100 nodes with around 70 active users. The LAN at the Institute is distributed in three Office buildings with two fiber optic backbones & switches having advance technology. The IT Cell is presently equipped with two servers through which the High speed Internet connectivity is being provided to the users from the National Knowledge Network. The IT-Cell is providing all the IT- related facilities to all the divisions

### Objectives

- To create the required IT infrastructure for the Institute.
- To Procure and deploy the software on the computers.
- To provide the internet connectivity, email etc. to the institute users.
- To develop, host & update the website of the Institute.
- To Maintain the IT infrastructure and Internet Leased Line.
- To Implement e-Governance in the Institute.
- To provide documentation services to the Institute.
- To maintain the archival of the documents and the presentations.
- To provide the Video Conferencing facilities in the Institute.
- To provide the AE-BAS facilities in the Institute.

## Hindi (Rajbhasha) Cell:

Hindi (Rajbhasha) Cell of the Institute takes up the responsibility of the implementation of the Official Language Policy of Govt. of India and also entrusted with promoting the use of Hindi in the official day to day work as well as works of permanent nature.

### Objectives:-

- To make the officials aware of the Official Language Policy of the Union Government and the provisions & orders of the official Language Act; to provide help for the compliance and make them comply.
- Translation work from English to Hindi and vice versa.
- Support for Hindi Translation to updating of IFB website.
- To organize the meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee to prepare agenda and minutes and to coordinate the actions taken on the decisions of the OLIC.
- To contact the Department of Official Language, MHA through Proper Channel.
- Vetting of scientific and Administrative material.

- To prepare supporting and reference literature.
- To organized Hindi Workshop.
- To make proposal for the purchase of Hindi books etc. in the library.
- To organize Hindi Day/Hindi week/Fortnight/Month.
- Work regarding inspection of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language & actions to complete the assurances.
- To prepare and send the quarterly progress report regarding official language implementation to the ICFRE Headquarter and online to regional Implementation Office (RIO), New Delhi.
- Bilingual format of all forms and standard drafts used in the institute.
- Preparation of the quarterly progress report regarding official language implementation, review and follow up action.
- To provide support in organizing scientific seminars, conferences and workshops organized in Hindi

**RTI Cell:**

RTI Cell is entrusted with providing information to applicant in the time bound manner prescribed under RTI Act. 2005. Officials posted in RTI Cell include a PIO alongwith a supporting staff. Director of the institute is Appellate Authority for RTI matters.

Objectives:

- To make sure to provide information at the earliest or within prescribed time limit.
- To provide information as per office record.
- To provide information online mode and offline as applicable.
- Provisions are complying with prescribed for BPL applicant.
- RTI applicant fee and additional charges for photocopy etc. is accepted in cash, postal order, bank D.D. etc. in favour of Director, IFB, Hyderabad except personal cheque. Information can be provided to applicant if RTI application is submitted on simple paper.
- RTI Cell dealt with efficiencies in the delivery of public services.
- PIO is obliged to answer each and every letter.
- RTI cell serve for effective implementation of the 'Right to Information' in the Institute.