Survey to study impact of climate change on forests

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: A second forest survey is being conducted throughout the country to study the effects of human intervention and climate change with regard to forest types. Earlier, a survey was done in 1968 which had identified 16 forest types and several sub-types.

There may have been changes with regard to this, said V K Bahuguna Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). He was speaking to reporters after attending a 'tree growers' mela' at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) in the city on Thursday.

"The survey has already been completed in Tamil Nadu, and Kerala," he said. However it will take around a year to come up with the conclusions of the study. We need 32 per cent of forest in the country but at present we have only 22 percent of forest cover. Presently, the annual value of forest products is Rs6.96 lakh crore. Thus, it becomes imperative to understand our forest resources better, he said.

They are also planning to extend many of their services to the grassroots level. Bahuguna said they would network with the Krishi Vigyan Ken-

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dras, Vana Vigyan Kendras and various extension centres of forest departments in the districts to take the latest research developments to farmers, he said. There will be an all India tour with 11 farmers and a scientist. The group will study developments in the agricultural sector. They will exchange ideas and adopt the best technologies for themselves. This will be conducted before the monsoon.

ICFRE is planning to purchase equipment to aid farmers. They have allocated Rs 25 lakhs to purchase a harvester. A high quality seedlings centre worth Rs60lakh will be established for Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry, he said.