

Hungary, India explore joint forest research

Seema Sharma, TNN | Oct 20, 2015

DEHRADUN: A delegation of the Forest Research Institute of Hungary has proposed 200 different research projects that could be carried out in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. Besides climate change and plantation forestry, the two research institutes could also learn from each other's experience in controlling pests. Proposals for such collaboration are being readied, and will be submitted to the Union environment ministry for approval. Attila Borovics, director, FRI, Hungary, told TOI, "FRI Dehradun has an astounding track record in forestry plantation. They have also made progress in climate change studies in recent years. We look forward to exchanging research work in both these fields. Besides, we have provided them a long list of 200 research projects on which FRI can join hands with us."

He said he had received an encouraging response from FRI Dehradun, and about 20 projects would be shortlisted initially for approval from the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change.

Borovics said Hungary had done exceedingly well in dealing with the problem of black locusts in farming. That experience too could be shared with FRI Dehradun so farmers in

India can benefit. S Mahesh Kumar, who is currently working with FRI Hungary, said being Indian and working in Hungary, he was especially interested in the possibility of collaboration with FRI, Dehradun.

"Research students and faculty members from both the institutes will stay for a particular period in each other's countries under the fellowship programme. At present, 200 scholarships have already been given to Indian students by the Hungarian government," he said. HS Ginwal, scientist at the genetic forestry department of FRI said, "FRI has done a lot of work in the genetic sector, with regard to tree species like poplar, cedar and oak. The new improved clones of different tree species are being prepared for many decades. The results of these studies are shared with farmers in many states. Hungary too has poplar and other similar trees, so can benefit from our work. This delegation has shown great interest in the genetic improvement of trees."

Source:

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