



Report on the
Post Symposium Training Workshop
“Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy”

Organised by
IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) and
Punjab Agriculture University (PAU)

With Financial Support of
United States Forest Service

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Report prepared by

Michael Kleine (IUFRO-SPDC, Vienna, Austria)

Promode Kant (Institute of Green Economy, New Delhi, India)

1. Introduction

IUFRO-SPDC in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture University and the EU-BENWOOD Project organised a two days training workshop on February 13 and 14, 2011, on “Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy” at the Punjab Agriculture University campus in Ludhiana, India, for the participants of the IUFRO Symposium on “Short Rotation Forestry: Synergies for Wood Production and Environmental Amelioration” held at the same venue from 10 to 12 February 2011. A total of 26 participants from 10 developing countries and two EU member countries took part in the workshop as per the list attached in Annex 1.

Generous funding was provided by the US Forest Service through IUFRO-SPDC enabling participants from developing countries in Asia and Africa to join both events.

The need for sound scientific information in the development of public environmental and forest-related policies at the local, national and international levels has grown significantly in recent years. Although it is commonly accepted that scientific information is indispensable for policy and management, linking substantive knowledge and authoritative political decision making is a chronically difficult task. In view of this, IUFRO-SPDC has been conducting a series of training workshops for creating awareness among scientists in developing countries of the importance of science-policy interfacing issues over the past five years. The training provides concepts and methods to researchers on how to plan, conduct, and organize research activities so that research results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making.

The workshop content was based on the Guidance for Scientists and Research Organizations published by IUFRO Task Force on the Science-Policy Interface as IUFRO Occasional Paper 17. The aim of the workshop was to enable the participants to learn about key aspects and best practices of science-policy interactions in the context of international, national and local policy processes such as the International Forest Regime, global conventions, national poverty reduction strategies and community-driven processes at local level. A wide range of case studies were presented addressing forest-related science-policy issues including field projects for mitigating climate change and short-rotation forestry under various management objectives.

The training workshop benefited from substantial input by Dr. Promode Kant, Institute of Green Economy, New Delhi, contributing his expertise in designing carbon projects at the community level in India and other regions of Asia. Two practitioners from Poland Mr Jan Dubas and Mr. Rafal Matela (WENA Kochanska-Dubas) joined the workshop as resource persons sharing their practical experiences in managing short-rotation poplar forests in Poland. In addition, Professor Sanjeev K. Chauhan, Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), India, Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 1.03.00 on Short Rotation Forestry presented the activities of the EU-funded BENWOOD Project. Dr. Michael Kleine (IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator) acted as main moderator and facilitator of the workshop.

Financial support for the workshop and conference was provided by the United States Forest Service through IUFRO-SPDC, the BENWOOD Project of the European Union, and the Punjab Agriculture University, India.

1. 1 Objectives

The workshop addressed issues of science-policy interactions at the international level by presenting amongst others also the IUFRO-led Initiative on Global Forest Expert Panels. Policy input at the national level was explained using national forest programmes in the Asia Pacific region. The third element in the workshop addressed policy implementation at the local level providing examples of climate change mitigation projects in South Asia.

The training workshop aimed at:

- Providing concepts and methods to researchers on how to plan, conduct, and organise research activities so that research results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making;
- Explaining key aspects of science-policy interactions, and best practices for work at the science-policy interface in the context of international, national and local policy processes with special emphasis on the incorporation of traditional forest knowledge.
- Presenting a wide range of case studies mainly dealing with forest-related forest management issues in Africa, but also from other regions.
- Conducting hands-on exercises in working groups with focus on the formulation of research processes that adequately incorporate elements of science-policy interfacing.

Although not all research is specifically focused on policy-relevant questions, best practices in transforming research results into usable information can increase the impact of science on forest policy and improve the practice of forestry, thereby creating more value for society from forest and tree-related research. Towards this end, the training workshop specifically aimed at improving the understanding of policy- and decision-making and the roles scientists can play in informing such processes.

The training workshop brought together scientists from developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa who wished to increase the impact of their scientific work (i.e. research, advocacy, supervision etc.) on policy-making through adequate contribution of research results and scientific knowledge to policy-making processes, addressing broader environmental and socio-economic issues.

1. 2 Participants

The workshop brought together 26 participants from 12 countries in Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam), Africa (Egypt, Ethiopia, Zambia) and Europe (Austria and Poland).

The US Forest Service grant allocation allowed covering the costs of participation of scientists from developing countries in the workshop and conference as well as paying for local meeting arrangements.

2. First Day: Forest Policy at International, National and Local Levels

2.1 Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was held at 0900 Hrs on Feb. 13, 2011, which was chaired by Dr. SS Gosal, Director (Research) of the Punjab Agriculture University and attended by Dr M Kleine Coordinator IUFRO-SPDC, Dr Promode Kant, Director, Institute of Green Economy, New Delhi, Dr Avtar Singh, Prof S C Sharma and Dr Sanjeev Chauhan of the Department of Forestry, Punjab Agriculture University, and all the participants attending the training workshop.

Dr Avtar Singh welcomed the guests and participants and introduced the objectives of the workshop. Participants from all countries were introduced to the chief guest and the resource persons. Dr M Kleine in his address spoke of the historical evolution of IUFRO and of the work that has been done in the past few years by this organization and, in particular, of the activities of the IUFRO-SPDC programme. He highlighted the objectives of the IUFRO training workshop and spoke of the necessity of increased participation of stakeholders in policy framing. He said there was a large amount of information available with the science community but it does not reach stakeholders in a manner in which it could be reflected in policy formulation and implementation.

Dr SS Gosal, Director of Research, PAU, Ludhiana highlighted various issues on afforestation and reforestation and emphasized that the involvement of scientists is generally at the limited scale though the scientific facts cannot be over-ruled, still in general the results are not fully transformed in the policy framework. PAU plays a significant role in State Agricultural Policy to match the interests of the farmers. Dr Gosal highlighted the many issues that have limited the role of carbon sequestration in plantations in climate change mitigation and asked both the research community and the policy makers to pay attention to these issues on an urgent basis to take full advantage of the opportunities for increased earnings to farmers presented by the evolving carbon market. The barriers in CDM are very stringent and need to be addressed properly. He also said that proper guidance should be developed and made accessible to the end users so that a larger number of farmers could begin taking part in CDM.

2.2 IUFRO-SPDC Initiative on the Science and Policy Interface

This session, chaired by Dr Michael Kleine, began with a brief statement by the participants of their perceptions on the science policy interface in the context of forestry research in their countries. It was followed by a detailed presentation on the workshop objectives and programme, and introduced the participants to the subject of science-policy interfacing by outlining aspects of interactions between the science community and

policy-makers. Important issues included (a) the difficulties in making the link between substantive knowledge and political decision-making and the barriers to science-policy interactions; (b) two ideal-type models explaining science-policy interactions; (c) types of knowledge use; (d) policy relevancy of research; (e) public attention cycle; (f) data versus frameworks and (g) the importance of establishing long-term processes of science-policy interactions. In his presentation he also outlined the specific tasks and challenges of linking science to policy.

The presentation concluded with some information about the work of IUFRO's Task Force on the Science Policy Interface and training on the subject organised by IUFRO-SPDC. The Task Force was established following the IUFRO World Congress in Malaysia in 2000 and has evaluated over 60 case studies on science-policy interfacing from around the world. Based on these case studies the best practices guide mentioned earlier in this report has been developed and is used in this training.

Over the past six years, IUFRO-SPDC has conducted several training workshops on science-policy interfacing in all three regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America) with about 400 scientists – thus far - benefiting from this type of workshops.

2.3 The BENWOOD Project

Dr Sanjeev Chauhan then introduced the work being carried out under the EU supported BENWOOD project titled "Coordinated Actions in Support of Sustainable and Eco-Efficient Short Rotation Forestry in CDM Countries". This is a research project under the Framework 7 Programme of the European Union and is funded by the European Commission. BENWOOD promotes the exchange of experiences and practices among researchers and project developers in the field of short rotation forestry. It has 14 partners including 10 from European countries and one each from Brazil, China, India and Kenya. It seeks to coordinate short-rotation forestry (SRF) and land use management research with regards to short, mid and long term issues involving European and non-European experts and developing SRF guidelines and standards for land use management.

The BENWOOD project consists of six work packages dealing with assessment of the state of the art of SRF as a bio-fuel source globally, linkages of the project to current European and non-European R&D-activities in the area, development of SRF guidelines and standards for land use management for farmers and European Carbon project developers as well as stakeholders from the bio-energy sector, and dissemination of information.

The BENWOOD Project provides insights into the current R&D across the world and helps to find what has already been done in R&D within the SRF sector while enabling participation within IUFRO member organizations in shaping online guidelines on implementing SRF in CDM countries by providing exclusive access as an editor and an 'author buddy' from within the consortium.

Dr Jan Dubas and Mr Rafal Matela, private land owners and managers of short-rotation willow plantations in Poland presented their experiences in introducing a new concept of short-rotation tree plantation in their country. Besides sound technical expertise in site

preparation, selection of suitable planting stock and harvesting techniques, detailed assessments on the economics in terms of investment requirements and returns are needed to promote plantations among potential other forest stakeholders. Operating the plantation on a larger scale (e.g. 200 ha) has been instrumental in demonstrating the feasibility and economic benefits of these plantations. In addition, the association with the BENWOOD Project provided excellent opportunities for sharing scientific knowledge and operational experiences to further develop short-rotation forestry systems.

2.4 The Global Forest Expert Panels

This session was led by Dr. Michael Kleine presenting an example of effective interaction between science and policy at the global level. The "Global Forest Expert Panels" (GFEP) initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) provides objective and independent scientific assessments of key issues in order to support more informed decision-making at the global level. The initiative is led and coordinated by IUFRO and provides scientific information based on the needs of governments and intergovernmental processes such as the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Launched in April 2007, GFEP has conducted the following two expert panel assessments:

- (a) Adaptation of forests and people to climate change; and
- (b) Embracing complexity: Meeting the challenges of international governance. A global assessment report

The scientific reports and related policy briefs can be downloaded from the IUFRO Website: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/>.

The results of both expert panels were presented at various major meetings of the global forest and environmental policy arena such as the UNFF, UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Commissions on Forestry (FAO) at global and regional levels.

2.5 Translating Policy into Practice

This interactive session on translating policy into practice using examples of forest-related climate change mitigation projects was led by Dr Promode Kant who described the evolution of the framework convention of UNFCCC as one of the best recent examples of international law deeply rooted in scientific discoveries. He briefly explained the conceptual basis of the carbon sequestration projects in the forestry sector and reminded the participants that additionality is the core guiding principle of such projects. While every tree and shrub that grows mitigates climate change by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere it will earn carbon credits only if the carbon sequestered by it is additional to the carbon sequestration that would have happened in the business-as-usual scenario. He gave examples from CDM projects developed (or under the process of development) in India, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Mongolia and cited instances from each of these

countries where specific policy changes were required before the CDM forestry projects could be developed. In Myanmar, Cambodia and Mongolia it was found that the countries had not defined what constituted forests for the purpose of the Kyoto Protocol. Since CDM projects must convert a non-forest into a forest, in order to become eligible for generating carbon credits they had to first define forest in terms of the minimum area, minimum crown cover and minimum tree height as provided in the Marrakesh Agreement.

Dr Promode Kant also explained the issues arising out of non-permanency of forest carbon credits and the manner in which lack of permanency is treated through temporary and long term carbon credits (tCER and ICER) and its implications on the carbon credit prices and the risk management in carbon projects.

A detailed discussion followed the presentation during which the participants sought clarification on a host of methodological and policy issues related to CDM projects. Of highest interest were the reasons that have held the growth of forestry projects in the forestry sector since as of now barely 0.53% of all registered CDM projects fall in the category of Afforestation/Reforestation projects. The presentation and the discussion led to an increased understanding of the role of national policies and laws in furthering carbon sequestration projects in the participants' home countries.

3. Second Day: Working on the Science-Policy Interface

The day began with a summary of talks, presentations and discussions held on the previous day by Dr Michael Kleine who then laid out the tasks before the workshop participants for the second day of the event.

3.1 Best Practices Guidelines

In this session Dr Kleine made a detailed presentation on the Best Practices Guidelines evolved by the IUFRO Task Force on "Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy" and published as IUFRO Occasional Paper No. 17 in 2005. He said that policy makers and the society at large should be the ultimate beneficiaries of forest research. For this to happen, research undertaken by scientists should be relevant to the needs of the society and policy makers should also be able to use the insights from research work for the formulation of concrete policies that can then be implemented by decision makers and implementers. Often research is conducted without giving due thought to how it is relevant to the needs of the society and even if it is relevant how its results can be transformed into usable information. The purpose of this guidance is to help researchers plan, conduct, and organize research activities so that results can be more quickly and easily transformed into problem solving and policy making information packages. The guidelines fall into four categories:

- Focussing research on questions relevant to policy issues
- Conducting research in a collaborative and communicative manner
- Understanding, serving and engaging in policy processes, and
- Creating organizational capacity and culture that enables the above

3.2 Group Work

Participants then split into groups for an evaluation of research projects carried out in their countries on the basis of parameters developed in the best practices guidelines. For this purpose the groups were asked to work on the following tasks:

- Evaluate specific research projects against the IUFRO best practices guidelines;
- Discuss the project based on the following guiding questions:
 - Which of the elements in the best practices guide have been implemented?
 - Have these practices helped to make the project more useful for policy-making? If yes, how?
 - Should additional elements given in the best practices guide be included into the project? If yes, which ones?
- Select one project and develop the research process explaining the elements of the best practices guide that you would apply to make this particular project a role model for science-policy interfacing.

In total four groups of participants were formed ensuring an even spread of countries, experience, gender and disciplines among the groups.

3.3 Group Presentations

Group 1 examined a research project titled “Survey of flagship species abundance in Western Ghats” from Karnataka State of India and found it fitting the best practice guidance. However, improvements would be desirable with regard to conducting research in a collaborative and communicative manner. The group also recommended that review committees at the universities to adopt the best practices as criteria for funding research projects.

Group 2 dealt with a research project titled “Development of needs-based agroforestry models for marginal landholders in the Terai belt of West Bengal” in India. The group felt that it met all the basic requirements outlined in the best practices guidelines but was of the opinion that there could be improvements in efficiency at the interface between science and policy in this project too. Such improvements include communication with stakeholders and interdisciplinary research efforts.

Group 3 examined a research project underway in Ethiopia titled “Combating soil fertility loss in drought prone lands in Ethiopia” which is a multidisciplinary research project led by an Agriculture University. The group came to the conclusion that while the research was need-based and multidisciplinary but had little formal or informal consultation with policy makers at the time of project design and no special efforts were made to enhance the capacity of the participating agencies and their personnel in improving science policy interface efficiency.

Group 4 worked on a research project from the northern hill state of Himachal Pradesh titled “Short rotation forest of willows in the North-West Himalayas”. The Group came to the conclusion that it was a project focussed on the needs of the society and had a well grounded interdisciplinary approach. The project looks into the future needs of the society and has established links to policy formulation for the future. There has been no formal training or capacity building for enhancing efficiency at the interface but the senior research personnel are usually well versed in communicating research output to the policy makers in a language that is comprehensible to them. In addition, it would be desirable to intensify regular monitoring of project impacts and invite feedback from local people affected by project activities.

Overall, analysing the research process in relation to best practices in science-policy interfacing was a good exercise to further deepen the understanding of the necessary interactions between scientists and forest stakeholders, and to enhance informed decision-making for policy and on-the-ground forest management.

3.4 Closing of Workshop

The workshop was concluded with closing ceremony under the presence of Dr. M.S. Gill, Director of Extension Education and Dr. Avtar Singh, Head of the Department of Forestry, both representing the Punjab Agriculture University. Dr. Singh in his address thanked the organisers at PAU and IUFRO for a successful workshop also expressing the need for further close cooperation with IUFRO in the years to come. Dr. M. Kleine commended all participants for their active contributions to the workshop which was found to be very useful for scientists in the region. Special thanks were also extended to the resource persons from India and Poland for sharing their expertise and to the local organisers Professor Sanjeev Chauhan and staff for their hard work to implement this training workshop. Participants then received their certificates of attendance along with the documentation of the workshop sessions in electronic format.

Post-Symposium Training Workshop

“Working effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy”

Ludhiana, India, 13 to 14 February 2011

Workshop Programme

Date	Time	Subject (Description)	Responsible
Sunday 13 February	08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Local Workshop Organiser
	09:00 – 09:15	Welcome address and opening of the workshop	Chair/Co-Chair Organising Committee IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator
	09:15 - 09:30	Introduction of participants: experiences and expectations Workshop objectives and programme	Michael Kleine, Participants
	09:30 – 10:30	<u>Presentation:</u> What is the Science-Policy Interface? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science-Society Interaction • IUFRO’s Task Force on Science-Policy • IUFRO-SPDC Science-Policy Training 	Michael Kleine
	10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break	
	10:45 – 11:30	<u>Interactive Session:</u> Science contributions to forest policy and management: participants’ experiences	Moderation: Promode Kant, Michael Kleine
	11:30 – 12:30	<u>Presentations:</u> BENWOOD: Promoting short-rotation forestry in Asia and Europe	Jan Dubas, Rafal Matela Sanjeev K. Chauham
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

Table continued

Date	Time	Subject (Description)	Responsible
Sunday 13 February	13:30 – 14:30	<u>Interactive Session:</u> BENWOOD: Promoting short-rotation forestry in Asia and Europe	Jan Dubas, Rafal Matela, Sanjeev K. Chauham
	14:30 – 15:00	<u>Presentation:</u> CPF-Global Forest Expert Panels: “Climate Change Adaptation” and “ International Forest Regime”	Michael Kleine
	15:00 – 15:15	Tea Break	
	15:15 – 17:30	<u>Presentation and Interactive Session:</u> Translating policy into practice: Forest-related Climate Change Mitigation Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts; ongoing projects • Discussions 	Promode Kant
	19:00	Dinner	Local Workshop Organisation
Monday 14 February	08:30 – 08:45	Summary of results obtained on previous day	M. Kleine
14 February	08:45 – 09:30	Best Practices Guide: Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy	M. Kleine
	09:30 – 10:00	Preparations for Group Work: Tasks and expected results	Promode Kant, Michael Kleine
	10:00 – 10:15	Tea Break	
	10:15 – 12:30	Group Work: Evaluation of research projects based on best practices guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups discuss individual case studies • Developing a role model for science-policy interfacing 	Promode Kant, Michael Kleine
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

Table continued

Date	Time	Subject (Description)	Responsible
Monday 14 February	13:30 – 14:00	Group Work continues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describing the role model for science-policy interfacing• Compilation of a group presentation	Promode Kant, Michael Kleine
	14:00 – 16:00	Presentation of group work Discussions	Participants
	16:00 – 16:30	Closing of Workshop and Handing-over of Certificates	Chair/Co-Chair of Organising Committee
	16:30 – 17:00	Tea/Coffee	

Annex 1:**List of Participants**

Name	Country	Contact Details
Ms Rahmawaty	Indonesia	Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Sumatera Utara University, Jl. Tri Dharma Ujung No. 1 Kampus USU, Medan, 20155, North Sumatra, Indonesia; rahmawaty1974@yahoo.com
Mr GC Dhruva Bijaya	Nepal	China Agricultural University, Beijing-100193, PR China; gc10dhruva@yahoo.com
Ms Zuraida	Indonesia	Center for Plantation Forest Research and Development, Forest Research Development Agency, Ministry of Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. Jl Gunung Batu No 5 Bogor, 16610. PO BOX. 331; Zuraidaus21@gmail.com
Mr Jyoti Bhandari	Nepal	Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Office of the Dean, Pokhara, Nepal; angeljb7@yahoo.com
Mr Md Mostafizur Rahman	Bangladesh	Scientific Officer, Pulp and Paper Research Division BCSIR Laboratory Dhaka Bangladesh; mmrbcsir@yahoo.com
Mr.Narayansuwamy Somakanthan	Sri Lanka	Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, Faculty of Agriculture, Post-graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; nsomakanthan@yahoo.com
Ms. Laxmi Neupane	Nepal	Assistant Forest Officer, Bhaktapur District, Thimi, Nepal; lkneupane@yahoo.com
Mr Zewdu Teshome,	Ethiopia	Gondar Univ. PO Box. 196, Gondar, Ethiopia; zewdusami@yahoo.com
Ms Nuguyear Levan	Vietnam	278/19D Tam Vu Street Ninh Kieu District Canthi City, Vietnam; levan_queen@yahoo.com
Mr Ali Mohamed, Mohamed Ali	Egypt	25 Ali-El-Badrawy street, Qupaa, Cairo, Egypt; alimohamed1982@yahoo.com
Mr Suraj K Sah	Nepal	Dept. of Plant Resources, Ministry of Forests and soil conservation Thapathati Kathmandu, Nepal; saroj-biotec@pau.edu
Mr Abdul Nasir	Afghanistan	Khairkahina part 2, Kabul, Afghanistan; nasirhameed1984@yahoo.com
Mr Muktar Mohammed	Ethiopia	Lecturer; Haramaya University; P.O. Box 138 Dire Dawa School of Natural Resources, Management and Environmental Sciences, Ethiopia; muktarmoha@yahoo.com

Table continued

Name	Country	Contact Details
Mr Kafula Chisanga,	Zambia	Agriculture Research Officer; Soils and Water Management Division Zambia Agriculture Research Institute; P.O. Box 630090; Choma, Zambia; kafulac@yahoo.co.uk
Ms. Prenil KC	Nepal	Technical Officer; Pasture and Fodder Division, NARC, Singh Durbar Plaza, P.O. Box : 5459; Kathmandu, Nepal; kcprenil@hotmail.com
Dr Rakesh Banyal	India	SKUAST (K), Sopore (J&K) - India; rbanyal08@yahoo.co.in
Dr (Ms) Ashu Chandel	India	UHF, Nauni, Solan; chandelashu@yahoo.com
Dr Sumit Chakraborty	India	Cooch Behar (WB) India; c_drsumit@yahoo.com
Mr Subhash Yadav	India	Gurgoan, Haryana, India; syadavhfs02@yahoo.co.in
Dr NS Thakur	India	Assistant Professor (Agroforestry), ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat (India) - 396 450; drnsthakur@yahoo.in
Dr Ramakrishna Hegde	India	Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry, College of Forestry, Ponnampet - 571 216 University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka, India; vanasiri03@yahoo.com
Dr HS Saralch	India	Dept. of Forestry & NR, PAU Ludhiana-141 004 India; harmeet.saralch@rediffmail.com
Dr (Ms) Rajni Chauhan	India	Dept. of Forestry & NR, PAU Ludhiana, India; rajni@dr.com
Dr RK Garg	India	Dept. of Forestry & NR, PAU Ludhiana, India; gargrk72@rediffmail.com
Dr Balwan Singh	India	KVK Panchkula, Haryana, India; mandal.balwan@rediffmail.com
Dr Avtar Singh	India	Head, Dept. of Forestry & NR, PAU Ludhiana, India; avtar3@pau.edu

List of Resource Persons

Name	Country	Contact Details
Dr Promode Kant	India	Director IGREC New Delhi, India; promode.kant@gmail.com
Dr Jan Dubas	Poland	Wvczotkowskiwo Street 39. 58-500 Jelenia Go- ra, Poland; dubas@wena.jgora.pl
Mr Rafa Matela	Poland	Wvczotkowskiwo Street 39. 58-500 Jelenia Go- ra, Poland; matealarafal@gmail.com
Dr Sanjeev K Chauhan	India	Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources, PAU Ludhiana 141 004, India; chauhanpau@rediffmail.com
DR SC Sharma	India	SBS Nagar, Punjab, India; subhash38@yahoo.com