

ICAR-IGFRI Regional Research Station, Srinagar celebrates International Day of Forests-2018

With the aim to promote awareness regarding the importance of trees in our lives, one day seminar on International Day of Forests-2018, with the theme "Forests and Sustainable Cities", was organized by Regional Research Station, ICAR-IGFRI, Srinagar on 21st March, 2018, in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture and ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station, Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) to highlight the importance forests and trees outside forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Dr Suheel Ahmad, OIC, IGFRI, Regional Research Station gave a detailed account of the genesis and rationale of celebrating International Day of Forests and the role trees play in our life. Dr D B Singh, Director, ICAR-CITH, Srinagar and chief guest of the occasion presented a panoramic view of the importance of forests in our life and sensitized the audience about the role forests play in providing food, fiber, water and medicines for approximately 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people, including indigenous peoples with unique cultures. He highlighted the importance of trees in urban landscapes as excellent air filters, removing harmful pollutants in the air and fine particulates. Trees reduce noise pollution, as they shield homes from nearby roads and industrial areas. Dr Sheikh M Sultan, OIC, NBPGR-RS, Srinagar elaborated the role forests play in sustaining food production. Tree means water, water means bread, and bread means life. The speakers encouraged the participants to plant trees around household compounds, roadsides, boundary walls etc.



The programme concluded with the planting of more than 200 *Morus alba* seedlings as part of a project on Silvopastures and more than 100 *Cupressus torulosa* seedlings along the roadsides and boundary wall of the station as avenue plantation.

Sheikh ul-Alam-The patron saint of Jammu & Kashmir has rightly said: "*Ann poshi teli yeli wann poshi*", meaning 'Food will last as long as forests last.'

(OIC, RRS-IGFRI, Srinagar)