

## Doon-based ICFRE hosts session on land degradation in Spain

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Dehradun: Doon-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) hosted a session on 'Land Degradation Neutrality and REDD+ Readiness in India' at India Pavilion of Twenty Fifth Session of Conference of Parties (COP 25) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid, Spain on Friday.

Through the event, ICFRE apprised the global audience about India's initiatives for land degradation neutrality, salient features of National REDD+ Strategy, and various forestry programmes and projects for achieving climate change mitigation and land degradation neutrality in India by 2030.

Dr Suresh Gairola, director general, ICFRE, chaired the session of side event and highlighted that the policies, laws, and regulations related to forests in India are conservation-centric and mainly focused on enhancement of forest and tree cover for sustainable flow of ecosystem goods and services for well-being of the communities.

The session was hosted in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and GIZ.

"Various programs and projects are being implemented in the country for sustainable management of forests as well as for meeting the Nationally Determined Contribution Goal, Sustainable Development Goal and Land Degradation Neutrality targets. India is one of the top ten countries where forest and tree cover are increasing and forests are net sink of carbon dioxide," said SC Gairola, DG-ICFRE, Dehradun.

Rajendra Shende, chairman, TERRE Policy Centre and former Director UNEP highlighted the women-led initiatives in climate change mitigation and climate education being conducted by TERRE Policy Centre in the tribal district of Odisha. He also appreciated the research done by ICFRE for restoration of degraded forest lands and climate change mitigation, and civil society could provide assistance to ICFRE in capacity building of the stakeholders on sustainable land management through Centre for Excellence.

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