

PM announces setting up of Centre of Excellence at ICFRE

10 September 2019



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the High Level Segment of Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), announced that in order to further develop scientific approach and facilitate induction of technology to land degradation issues, India has decided to set up a centre of excellence at Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

This agency will actively engage to promote South-South cooperation with those who may wish to access knowledge, technology, and training of manpower to address land degradation related issues. Currently, 14th Conference of Parties (COP-14) of UNCCD is being held in India from September 2 to 13.

This is a major boost to the recognition of the global scientific role of ICFRE in addressing major forestry research and land degradation issues. ICFRE has done significant work on development of models for restoration of mined out areas, reclamation of sodic soil and saline lands, sand dune stabilisation, cold desert afforestation, development of windbreak agroforestry system and green skills development program.

It has also developed high yielding varieties of various tree species to improve productivity and augment farmers' income.

The main role of the Centre of Excellence would be to share knowledge and technology among developing countries of UNCCD to arrest further land degradation and restoration of degraded lands aiming at conserving biodiversity, food and water security, support livelihoods along with maintaining the flow of ecosystem goods and services for posterity. It will facilitate networking of national and international institutions working on land sustainability and ecosystem management for knowledge sharing, capacity building of the stakeholders in land degradation neutrality (LDN) target setting and provide technical support for land degradation mapping with better resolution for developing countries.

It will also be engaged in developing planning, monitoring and evaluation systems for interventions to combat land degradation through creation of a database and knowledge sharing systems.

Source: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/state-editions/pm-announces-setting-up-of-centre-of-excellence-at-icfre.html>