

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

**SECOND NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANIZING MEETING ON  
MULTIPURPOSE TREE SPECIES (FEBRUARY 15-16, 1989)**

The Second National Research Organizing Meeting on Multipurpose Tree Species was held under the auspices of Winrock International Forestry/Fuelwood Research and Development (F/FRED) Project at Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar on 15-16 February, 1989. The objectives were to share the country-wide experiences of the researchers and foresters working with Multipurpose Tree Species (MPTS) and identify research areas in respect of their growth and utilization.

In all 32 delegates participated in the meeting from the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, all the Provincial Forest Departments and Azad Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and the Pakistan Forest Institute. Mr. M.I. Sheikh, Director General, Pakistan Forest Institute in a brief opening address, welcomed the participants. Dr. Celso B. Lantican the Training Specialist, F/FRED Project in a speech gave an account of the working of the project and its role in the improvement of farm forestry practices through popularisation of MPTS in the countries of the Asian region.

The participants presented their views, results and field experiences in a total of 17 papers read on various aspects of MPTS, and took active part in the deliberations. The subjects included MPTS and their importance as fuelwood, fodder and medicinal plants, their role in watershed management, farmers' interest in agroforestry, overviews of past research trials, reviews of propositions made for research network trials in this respect by selecting *Prosopis cineraria*, *P. juliflora* and *A. nilotica* for the arid regions and *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Acacia nilotica* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* for the semi-arid regions. Results of some field studies were also presented by some research workers. These included: field trials of MPTS under rainfed and irrigated conditions in different ecological zones and use of water-harvesting techniques for successful tree establishment in desert areas. Screening of some MPTS in the deserts indicated that three exotic species viz. *Acacia tortilis*, *A. victoriae* and *A. albida* and two indigenous species, namely *Prosopis cineraria* and *Tecoma undulata* should be planted on a large scale in the deserts.

The concluding session was addressed by Dr. K.M. Siddiqui, Secretary of the Meeting wherein he presented the research priorities on the MPTS for discussion and approval. Dr. Bashir Hussain Shah was also elected member of Research Committee of F/FRED Project in this session.