

THE INSTITUTE, ROLE AND OBJECTIVES

The Institute

The year 1978, marked the dawn of a new era, when the concept of professional management of forests was conceptualised by the Government of India (GOI), in response to the recommendation by the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) and FAO/SIDA in 1972. The rationale for bringing renewable natural resource system under business management and training managers on economic and business aspects of the same was also suggested by the Ford Foundation.

The impetus generated by the recommendations culminated in an alliance with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) through which the philosophy and reasons for an institute was evolved, which was later christened as the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM).

IIFM was established in 1982 as an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, governed by a Board of Governors. During the years, the Institute has developed as an educational, research, training and consultancy organisation at national as well as international level.

IIFM Society

IIFM is a registered society under Madhya Pradesh Societies Registrickaran Adhinyam at Bhopal on 15th January, 1982. The Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of India is the President of the society. The **members** of the society consist of State Forest Departments, State Forest Development Corporations, Ministries of Human Resource Development, Finance, Forest and Environment, Rural Development at the centre, and Forest-based Industries. Besides these, Chief Secretary Government of Madhya Pradesh, Director General Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Director General Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Director General of Forests are members of the Society. At present the society has 45 members.

Roles and Objectives

The Institute, as a sectoral management institute, imparts education in forest management, which is a judicious combination of management, social, and forestry sciences. The Institute constantly endeavours to keep in touch with the problems of people, especially the forest dwellers and undertakes need-based research. The Institute tries to serve as a reservoir of knowledge in forest management and ensures proper integration of external and indigenous knowledge suitable to Indian context.

Vision of the Institute

Indian Institute of Forest Management to be among the leading international institutions in the area of forest, environment and development management and, be respected, both nationally as well as internationally, for its outstanding contributions in the fields of education, training, research, consultancy and, thought leadership.

The above vision is translated into following mission statement:

- (i) To serve different stakeholders of forestry, environment, and development sectors, and the society in general, through development and dissemination of knowledge, human resource development through its education and training activities, and providing assistance in formulation and advocacy of relevant policies and strategies.
- (ii) To be a national institution with international perspective and out reach.
- (iii) To build a culture of excellence, achievement, cooperation and service within a framework of strong ethical patterns of behaviour informed by universal values.

The specific objectives formulated to achieve this mission are:

Education and Training

- To meet the demand for the trained human resource with managerial and analytical skills in the areas of forest environmental and development management through regular educational courses.
- To update the knowledge and managerial skills of the serving professionals in the above areas through short-term Management Development Programs.

Research and Consultancy

- To generate information on field realities and derive meaningful interpretation through systematic research.
- To offer consultancy services to the needy client organizations based on the available expertise.

Dissemination

- To disseminate the research-based information/knowledge to meet the information needs of the forestry, environment and allied sectors through trainings, seminars and publications.

Databases and Information Systems

- To generate and maintain relevant databases that are essential for policy formulation, project planning and strategy development in forestry, environment and allied sectors
- To develop an Information Management System, which is compatible with and easily accessible to all levels of users, i.e. from local (community) to global levels?

Policy Formulation, Analysis and Advocacy

- To function as a national 'think tank' on forestry, environment and forests aimed at developing appropriate policies and strategies.
- To play the advocacy role in the sectors of their concern to promote adoption of appropriate policies and implementation strategies and safeguard the genuine interests of the disadvantaged stakeholders whenever necessary without compromising national interests.

National Institute of Excellence with International Perspectives

- To be in constant pursuit of academic and professional excellence so as to effectively serve the national interests, while incorporating international perspectives in its academic functions.

Centre of Excellences

With the visions of the perspective plan, IIFM has incorporated the International Centre for Community Forestry as one of its 4 Centre of Excellences, which work as focal point for harnessing, coordinating and utilizing intellectual energies of the faculties and National Fellows for providing a concentrated thrust in community forestry areas by way of research, consultancy, capacity building and dissemination efforts and provide linkages with international think tanks and development resources. The centre would also address to help building critical mass of internal capability and experience that could be applied for addressing the focus areas of the Centre in a meaningful way.

Organizational Structure

The Institute has two streams of personnel; viz. faculty members and academic/administrative support staff. The Director of the Institute, as its executive head, supervises the activities of both the streams. The faculty is a mix of academicians, management experts and forestry practitioners. The broad faculty areas in the Institute are:

i)	Communication Methods and Extension
ii)	Eco-system and Environment Management
iii)	Environmental and Developmental Economics
iv)	Financial Management
v)	Human Resource Management
vi)	Information Technology and Quantitative Techniques
vii)	Marketing Management
viii)	Sociology and Community Development
ix)	Technical Forestry

The administrative support system consists of Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Officer, Library & Information Officer, Managers looking after various academic/administrative Cells/Sections viz academic activities, academic services, students affairs, personnel matters, maintenance, horticulture and administrative and establishment matters, security and housekeeping etc.

Academic support units consist of cells related to the functioning of Post Graduate Programme in Forest Management (PFM), Fellow Programme in Management (FPM), admission (PFM and FPM), Management Development Programme (MDP), Field Work, Summer Internship, Placement and Publication, Research. Faculty members are designated as Chairpersons along with members to reinforce high performance and regulate to these units/cells.