



Centre of Excellence



A REPORT

VISIT TO HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Training on “Seed, Nursery and Plantation Techniques of Oak Species” for Other Stakeholders

Venue: **Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI)**

Date: **[22-24 October 2025]**

Department: **Botany Department, G.C. Sanjauli**



This report documents the educational visit by the students of the Botany Department, G.C. Sanjauli College, to the Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI). The primary objective of the visit was to gain practical knowledge and theoretical insight into forest ecology, particularly focusing on Oak species, modern nursery techniques, and disease management.

Accommodation was provided near the Rest House, and arrangements were found to be highly satisfactory. The core educational component took place in the HFRI Conference Hall.



Day 1 [22 Oct 2025]

Lecture I: Introduction to Oak Species and Regeneration

The introductory lecture focused on exposing attendees to the diversity of *Quercus* (Oak) plant species. Key takeaways included:

Identification of five prominent Oak species found in the region. A detailed discussion on the ecological and economic importance of Oak. Technical methods and challenges associated with successful Oak regeneration.

Lecture II: The Ecological Role of Oaks (Keystone Species)

This session focused on understanding the critical role of oaks within the ecosystem. It was emphasized that Oak is fundamental to local biodiversity, described as a keystone species due to its disproportionate impact on the ecosystem. A session covered modern silvicultural and nursery methods designed for productivity enhancement and the production of quality planting stock. The techniques discussed included: Smart farming, poly house technology, composting.

Lecture III: Diseases and Eco-Friendly Management

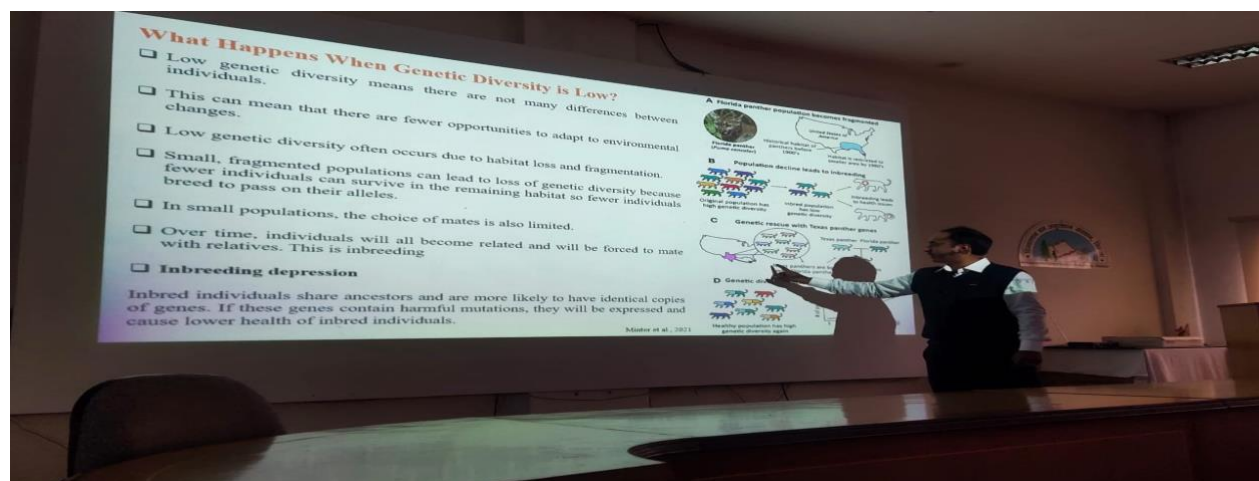
The technical session addressed tree health, covering specific diseases of oaks and their management. The key focus was on sustainable and ecological solutions:

Diagnosis: Recognizing the symptoms and understanding the nature of infections.

Management: Promoting eco-friendly management strategies, including the use of organic medicine for plants as a substitute for chemical treatments.

Lecture IV: Seed and Planting: Specific instruction on seed nursery and plantation techniques for various Oak species.

Genetic Diversity: Understanding genetic differences arising from variation in DNA sequence and mutation, and the causes of genetic diversity loss.



Day 2 [23 Oct 2025]

On 23rd October, A practical field visit was successfully conducted to the locations of Shillaroo and Hatu for on-site observation and experiential learning. At Shillaroo there was nursery of *Taxus wallichiana*, Birch, Blue pine, *Cedrus deodara* and many other medicinal plants.





Day 3 [24 Oct 2025]

The final day of the training session featured Dr R.K. Verma as the Chief Guest. Dr Verma delivered a comprehensive lecture

focusing on Carbon stock in forest types within the Shimla Forest Circle.

This was followed by a subsequent presentation covering oak distribution and its associated nutritional analysis for animals.

The concluding and informative lecture was delivered by Dr Mohammad Ibrahim.

This session focused on the critical process of selection of quality planting material necessary for effective planting programs.



Conclusions

The educational visit to the Himalayan Forest Research

Institute was highly successful, offering the students of the Botany Department a valuable combination of theoretical knowledge and practical exposure to modern forestry science.

Participants from G.C Sanjauli

- Meenakshi Verma – B.Sc. 2 Life Science
- Sakshi Sharma - B.Sc. 2 Life Science
- Aryaveer Rathore - B.Sc. 2 Life Science
- Sparshit Thakur - B.Sc. 2 Life Science
- Archit Verma - B.Sc. 2 Life Science

Reported by – Meenakshi Verma

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