



First Announcement

International Poplar Commission (IPC)

**24th Session, Oct 30 to Nov 2, 2012 and
46th Executive Committee Meeting, Oct 29, 2012**

Dehradun, India

Theme: “Improving Lives with Poplars and Willows”

Background

The International Poplar Commission (IPC), a technical statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) serves members through their National Poplar Commissions, Working Parties and through full Sessions, which are held every 4 years for the poplar and willow community to exchange and share the progress and advances in research, silviculture, management, forest industries and markets. These Sessions bring together government officers, researchers, producers, industry engineers, traders and users aiming to apply scientific knowledge and technology into policies, plans and practices for development and to improve ecological conditions and people’s livelihoods.

Poplars and willows are two of the major fast-growing and short-rotation genera cultivated world-wide and are playing critical roles in rehabilitation of degraded lands (agriculture and forestry), combating desertification, in raw material supply to industries, recreation and amenity benefits, particularly in urban areas. Poplars and willows are providing wood and fibre for a wide range of forest products (lumber, panel products, pulp and paper and other products) and are increasingly an important source of biofuel.

The IPC was formally established in 1947. Hence the 2012-Session to be held in Dehradun, India marks the 65th birthday of the IPC. India has around 240,000 ha under poplar, mostly planted in mixture with agricultural crops. Most poplar plantations are private-owned and have contributed significantly to improving people’s welfare in rural areas.

24th Session Theme

The central theme for the 24th Session is “*Improving Lives with Poplars and Willows*” which includes but is not limited to the

- contribution of poplars and willows to rural livelihoods and sustainable development
- recent status and advances of poplar and willow afforestation and reforestation for industry applications;
- recent status, progress and advances in application of poplars and willows for ecological/environmental restoration, biofuels (bioenergy) and carbon sinks to mitigate climate change; and
- advances in poplar breeding, biotechnology and forest health.

Local host institution

The **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** under the Ministry of Environment and Forests is an umbrella organisation in the Indian forestry research and education system and will act as the local host of the IPC-event. ICFRE has established its presence throughout the country with 8 institutes and 4 centres located in different bio-geographical regions and catering to the forestry research needs of India. The ICFRE has also set up the main conference website <http://ipc2012.icfre.gov.in> including a user friendly module for registration and the submission of paper abstracts.

The Forest Research Institute (FRI) is one of the most prestigious institutes of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) dealing with forestry and environmental research since 1906 and acting as a forestry university since 1991 (BSc, MSc and PhD degrees).

Both institutions are located on the Dehradun Forestry Campus of about 500 ha.

PostalAddress: Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin 248006, India



The main entrance to the Forestry Campus in Dehradun

Location, Travel, Accomodation,

Dehradun is the capital city of the State of Uttarakhand in north India and is located ca. 250 km north of India's capital New Delhi. Dehradun is renowned for its natural resources, publishing services, and for its prestigious educational institutions such as the Forest Research Institute and the Indian Military Academy. Dehradun is famous for its picturesque landscape and pleasant climate and provides a gateway to the surrounding region. It is well connected and in close proximity to popular Himalayan tourist destinations.

Travel to India is usually via Indira- Gandhi-Airport in Delhi. From Delhi 3 airlines (Air India, Jet Airways, Kingfisher) conduct daily flights of ca. 45 min to Dehra Dun. Travel by train from Delhi main station to Dehra Dun takes about 6 hours.

All conference facilities are available on the Dehradun Forestry Campus and are located within walking distance from each other. Accommodation for delegates will be in hostels/ guesthouses on the campus (120 double rooms rented out on a single person basis) or in hotels at Dehradun (315 rooms).

The hotel standards range from basic to deluxe, hotel prices from USD 60 to 200. Hotels at all price levels will be recommended on the conference webpage <http://ipc2012.icfre.gov.in>. Shuttle busses will be arranged for transport of hotel residents. The travelling distance between Dehradun city centre and the Forestry Campus is 20 to 30 minutes depending on traffic.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided on campus in food canteens or in each respective hotel. Working lunches will be provided centrally at the Forestry Campus on all session days.

Who should attend?

The 24th Session of the IPC will be suitable in particular for policy makers, forest managers, forest scientists and academics, from public and private institutions, companies, landowners, environmentalists and students with an interest in growing and using poplars and willows for social, environmental and economic benefits. The Session will provide opportunities for IPC-working groups to share their expertise and experiences on cross cutting topical issues and to define work programmes.

Tentative Conference Programme

- Sat 27 and Sun 28 Oct: pre-conference study tour
- Mon, 29 Oct: 46th IPC-Executive Committee meeting (upon invitation only), press conference, welcome reception by FAO, cultural programme
- Tue 30 Oct to Fri 2 Nov: 24th IPC-Session (plenary, concurrent and individual working party sessions, a poster-session with a separate time slot to allow everybody the opportunity to participate).
- Sat 3 Nov to Wed 7 Nov: post-conference study tours

An accompanying spouse programme will be offered from Monday, 8th October, 2012 (Day 1) to Thursday 11th October 2012

Fees will be set separately for pre and post conference study tours.
More details on the conference program will be uploaded soon.

Official Languages

The 46th Executive Committee meeting (29 Oct 2012) will be conducted in English.

The 24th IPC-Session (30 Oct to 2 Nov, opening and closing plenary sessions on days 1 and 4) will have simultaneous interpreter services in English, French and Spanish. The concurrent and individual working groups meetings will be conducted in English only.

Papers, abstracts and posters are to be written in English.

Tentative schedule

December 1 st 2011	Pre-announcement on the IPC-Website http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc2012/en/
February 15 th , 2012	First Announcement on host and IPC Websites, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programme structure • start of submission of paper abstracts, • guidelines for paper abstracts, posters and presentations (will follow soon), • guidelines for reporting of national poplar commissions, • guidelines for working party reports (for Executive Committee meeting and working party sessions), • other background information
March 31 st , 2012	Second Announcement on host and IPC Websites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programme update, • preliminary plan of pre-session and post-session study tours, • deadlines for pre-registration, • reminder on paper abstracts • application for developing country support program by FAO, if available
May 31 st , 2012	Third Announcement on host and IPC Websites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revised programme • schedules for pre- and post-session study tours, • registration package (registration form, instructions for registration), • deadline of early registration • deadline to submit paper abstracts
July 31 st , 2012	Final announcement

Important dates

Last date of receipt of country report: March 31st/April 15th, 2012
Last date of receipt of abstracts: June 15, 2012
Submission of registration form: June 15, 2012 (without late fee); July 15, 2012 (with late fee)
Acceptance of abstracts announced: by 15 July, 2012
Last date of submission of full paper: by August 15, 2012

Country Progress Report

The exchange of information on scientific, social and economic aspects of Poplars and Willows among the stakeholders within and between the countries is the key function of IPC. The country progress reports on Poplars and Willows are an important aspect of this transfer of knowledge and technical exchange. The guidelines for National Reporting on questionnaire on Poplars and Willows resources are available at the FAO/IPC 2012 website. The electronic version of the country progress report are scheduled to be submitted to the IPC Secretariat by 31 March and 15 April respectively. Any query related to country reporting may be addressed to Mr. Alberto Del Lungo at the IPC-Secretariat (Alberto.DelLungo@fao.org).

Registration Fees

Fees will be set separately for pre-session study tour, IPC-session fee, and post-session study tour. All fees will be announced shortly at the host website of ICFRE.

Weather and health issues

Dehradun has a sub-tropical climate with cold winters, warm and colorful springs, humid and hot summers and an extended monsoon, sometimes up to mid October. Dehradun is located at altitudes between 700-1000 m (2,300-3,300 ft) above sea level and is surrounded by forests and mountains; its weather sometimes changes abruptly. October and November are very pleasant months, with average temperatures ranging from 7 to 23 degrees Celsius. It is a good period for any outdoor activity. Light woollens may be required; however, cotton cloths are preferred.

Citizens and travellers coming from the United States, Canada, or the United Kingdom, do not require any vaccination certificate or inoculations. Though normally an International Health Certificate is not asked for by immigration officials, it is better to carry one. It contains valuable information in case one needs medical attention. Travellers should have a Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate conforming to International Health Regulation, if they originate or are transiting through yellow fever endemic countries.

Many websites provide further details on health and related issues. Visitors may like to consult them, e.g. <http://www.mustseeindia.com/India-About-India-Health-Tips-Vaccination-topic-1344>

Web References :

All inquiries concerning general information should be addressed to the Assistant-Director General (Project Formulation), ICFRE, the focal point for IPC Session 2012: ipc2012-india@icfre.org

FAO IPC website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc>; **E-mail:** IPC-Secretariat@fao.org

India Host Website: <http://ipc2012.icfre.gov.in>; **E-mail:** ipc2012-India@icfre.org

Related links:

Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun

Indian Council of Forest Research and Education, Dehradun: <http://www.icfre.gov.in>

International Poplar Commission

Indian Forestry Congress

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)