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काष्ठ विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

(भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्)

(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)

(पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त परिषद्)

(An Autonomous Council of Ministry of Environment & Forest Govt. of India)

पी.ओ. मल्लेश्वरम, बेंगलोर - ५६० ००३.

P.O. Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003.

सं. / No.

No. WBD/Canopy Proj/IWST-2005/ 4611

दिनांक :

Dated, the

Dated: 7th Oct. 2005

10th

Dear Sir,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Institute of Wood Science and Technology initiated a systematic work on forest canopies couple of years ago by documenting the **arthropod diversity in the upper reaches of rainforests in the Western Ghats**. We are now planning a multi-disciplinary research programme on forest canopies involving organizations which have expertise in the area of study. **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is an organization with an expertise in the concerned field and I take this opportunity to request you to join hands in this research programme.**

Rainforest canopies provide the perfect platform to monitor climatic parameters and their cascading effects on forests and its biota. Canopy scientists throughout the world have realized the multi-dimensionality of this subject and have initiated Whole Forest Observatories in five tropical forests of the world. However, ironically, in India, which is home of two of the megadiversity hotspots of the world, programme of such studies is yet to take-off. During the discussions we had with scientists from various disciplines and organizations it has been arrived at a consensus that canopy research and education is a priority subject, especially from the context of studying the global climatic change and its impact on the forest ecosystem.

With the above in focus, we have developed a programme that involves monitoring of several abiotic (climatic and canopy gas exchange parameters) and biotic (canopy epiphytes, canopy phenology, insects, birds and small mammals) factors in the rainforest canopies. We had preliminary discussions with Prof. G. S. Bhat from the Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, IISc., with respect to monitoring fluxes at different strata of the rainforest. Prof. Bhat and the CAOS have expressed their interest in joining the programme. We also had a discussion with Prof. N. V. Joshi of Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc., regarding their interest in studying the impact of climate change on rainforest canopies. He expressed that CES would definitely be interested and could actively take part in the effort.

Dr. D. D. 75
17.10.05

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore; College of Forestry, Ponnampet; and Dr. C. B. S. Dutt from ISRO, Bangalore have also expressed their interest in joining us in this programme. Karnataka Forest Department's involvement and preliminary permission to take up this work in Madikere district has been obtained.

It is requested that a premier national organization like IISc joins the programme the output of the research would be of very high quality and this provides a platform for further detailed work on canopy research.

I look forward for your response.

Thanking you,

hina and naga,

Yours *Sing*

Shashidhar

K. S. Shashidhar
DIRECTOR

Dr. P. Balaram
Director
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore

Prof. N. V. Joshi
CES

Pl. respond after
consulting a Neapure

TJB