

U.N. SPECIAL FUND PROJECT.

by

K.F. Andersen,  
Project Manager.

Project Notes No.1.

The development programme of the Forest Research Institute aims, among other things, to establish an organization for research in the field of forest management, a task which has up to the present day been performed by the office of the Silviculturalist in the Development Circle. A United Nations Special Fund Project has been initiated by the Pakistan Government as an integrated part of the development scheme.

Plan of Operation for the project, outlining the schedule for co-operation between the Government, the Special Fund and FAO, was signed by the Government 27 November, 1967, and declared operational 27 February, 1968. The summary data of the agreement are : A Special Fund Contribution (\$ 1 Mill) to cover the services of foreign consultants, fellowships abroad, and equipment; a Government Cash Contribution (\$  $\frac{1}{4}$  Mill.) to meet local operating costs and equipment; a Government Contribution in Kind consisting of staff, land, buildings and other resources (\$  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Mill.). The expected duration of the project is 6 years.

In a way the UNSF/FAO Project has not got an independent objective; the ultimate goal of the project is

that of the Institute Development Programme, and the activities of the project will be supplementary to and closely linked with the activities of the Institute. The training programme, the provision of equipment, the planning and the actual execution of the research work are all intended to strengthen the Forest Research Institute. At the same time, however, the project is part of an international organization with its own rules and regulations, the field of work of the project is by agreement restricted to one sector of the Institute, and the research areas to be covered are confined to a limited set of research projects. Thereby the lines of approach to the development problems may differ, although the direction will be one.

At the present date, 6 months after the initiation of the project, it is still in the preparatory or planning phase and will be so for the next months. The Project Manager has taken up his assignment, and the recruitment of subject matter experts is in progress. Equipment to a value of Rs. 100,000 has been acquired and a similar amount has been ordered. The most important and immediate tasks are to formulate a relevant and sound research programme and to establish the institutional framework, the setting in which the future research work can proceed.

The planning and administration of this organizational frame of the research activities are the main responsibilities of the Project Co-Manager, the Director of Forest Research Institute. Two vital elements are: adequate and qualified personnel and suitable working environments for the staff. Intensive preparatory work is going on with this purpose in mind.

As the development of a forest management research organization must reflect the forest policy of the country and be defined and directed by the requirements of the general progress of forestry in East Pakistan, close relationships must be maintained with the Forest Service, and also with other bodies playing a part in the shaping of the country's future forestry. An Advisory Committee has been set up, which includes representatives from organizations connected with the forestry enterprise.

The progress of the forest research project will depend not only on the material resources, the efficient staffing and the amount of work and intelligence put into the work, but also on the good-will, the support and the healthy criticism received from everybody concerned with and engaged in East Pakistan forestry or forest industry.

The UN participants particularly need such support. We shall welcome any opportunity to exchange points of view and experiences in the field, in technical reports and also in the pages of the present news bulletin.