

ISSN 02.54-4539

Vol. 19 No. 1 & 2 January & July 1990

**BANGLADESH**  
**JOURNAL OF FOREST SCIENCE**  
(Formerly Bano Biggyan Patrika)

**BANGLADESH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
**CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

# BANGLADESH JOURNAL OF FOREST SCIENCE

(Formerly Bano Biggyan Patrika)

*A Half-Yearly Journal of Forest Science*

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY & JULY

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Articles sent for publication should be typewritten double spaced with five-centimeter left and bottom and three-centimeter right margins, on one side of the sheet not exceeding six fullscale pages. Title, in capital letters, should be concise and specific conveying maximum meaning, using fifteen words at the most. The name(s) and full address(es) of the contributor(s) should be mentioned immediately after the title. Abbreviations other than those internationally understood should not be used. In the presentation of data, metric units are to be used with British units in parenthesis. Footnotes should be avoided except for reference to personal communications. If the paper has been presented in a seminar/conference, reference to this effect is to be made, in full, in a footnote at the front page of the paper. Subtitles may be used to divide the paper into logical parts, such as, INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS and REFERENCES. The scientific name in parenthesis of any species must follow the common (vernacular) name only in the first-use.

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# *Editorial*

## **NEED FOR FORESTRY RESEARCH**

In the context of the ecological imbalance caused by the "greenhouse effect", forest has a vital role to play. In addition, it provides a diffusion effect against flood, drought, and acts as a shelter belt. The importance of forestry research to help maintain a balanced ecosystem, thus, can hardly be undermined.

Bangladesh with her already high population density and its alarming rate of growth is facing a heavy pressure on the limited forest resource. The uneven distribution of forests throughout the country has further aggravated the problem. Moreover, heterogeneity of natural forest has affected the yield per unit area of land to a minimal level. This is reflected in the low per capita consumption of wood.

At present the supply of various forest produces, such as timber, pole, fuelwood, bamboo, etc. cannot fulfil the present demand. The demand and supply gap is widening fast due to population swelling. The simulation model developed by the FAO for Bangladesh predicts that, by the year 2010, the demand for sawn timber would be quadruple. The supply would be able to satisfy only one-sixth of the need. In order to meet the demand of forest products and to bridge the ever-increasing demand and supply gap, two strategies may be taken up simultaneously. First, the productivity of the forest has to be increased commensurating with the needs, and secondly, the optimal utilization of the forest products has to be ensured. The increased production by adoption of advanced management technique is a long term task. Therefore, the only alternative for quick augmentation of the supply position of the forest resource is its proper processing and scientific utilization. Research is needed to achieve these ends.

The Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) is engaged in research for increasing the productivity of the forests both in quantity and quality and improving the conservation and utilization of forest products. The BFRI has two distinct branches through which research on various disciplines are being executed. The forest management research deals with developing technology of growing stock, and the forest products research deals with developing technology of maximizing the use of forest produces. The BFRI has the responsibility to conduct aggressive research on both the aspects and to disseminate the result to the clientele for averting the forestry crisis as early as possible.