



PREFACE

The climate change due to global warming is a universally acknowledged fact now. The present spate of global warming has been almost conclusively known to be caused predominantly by unprecedented increase in the levels of green house gases in the atmosphere for which human activities have been found to be among the prominent causative factors.

Due to unpredictability of the impacts, consequences of climate change can not be precisely forecast. Therefore, the implications also can not be definitely predicted. The theories on possible implications however point towards a possibility that the natural settings within a century period are going to be different for the life forms to survive. It is true that natural evolution will take its own course and the life on earth will reorient itself to adapt to the new changed environment. It is a long term process which would take centuries or millennia. However, for immediate survival of human beings, appropriate ways and means will have to be worked out.

In the present circumstances, it is important to think how to slow down the process of this change. As the main associated factor is human activity, we are certainly in a position to work for optimizing the activities which cause global warming. Thus working for minimizing green house gas levels would be the best immediate response for minimizing causes.

As part of the global responses and the mandate of the Union Government in the collective effort to deal with global warming, national efforts are on at appropriate levels. National Action Plan on Climate Change is in place for implementation at national level. Union Ministry of Environment and Forests is the national focal point for UNFCCC. However, the action basically lies at the local levels, which is the main focus of the state governments. In the circumstances, it is only logical that the state machinery works on better understanding of the implications and prepares itself for action.

It was in this context, that Forests and Wildlife Department, with Department of Environment and other associates, organized this National Workshop on Global Warming and its implications for Kerala. The deliberations have resulted in better understanding of the issues related to global warming and the areas of concern where further action could be directed. The recommendations have been finalized based on the inputs received in all the sessions of the Workshop. The inputs and recommendations can form the basis for formulation of future strategy at the state level in general and for implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change in particular in the imminent future.

Altogether more than 400 participants were registered for the Workshop and 46 papers were



presented in 5 sessions. The proceedings of the Workshop include the full papers of the authors who made presentations in various sessions, papers which were accepted for poster sessions and presentations which were made on invitation for general understanding of the issues and concerns. I place on record my sincere thanks for participation of all the registered and invited participants and delegates in the workshop.

The Workshop could be organized with constant guidance provided by Shri. Binoy Viswam, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing, Kerala, who inaugurated the Workshop. His excellency, the Governor of Kerala, accorded acknowledgment to the importance of the event by kindly agreeing to grace the valedictory session. Dr. Vandana Shiva shared her views in the plenary and valedictory sessions. I place on record our sincere gratitude for their encouragement. I also acknowledge the constant monitoring and guidance provided by the Workshop Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Shri. P. K. Mohanty, Principal Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department, Government of Kerala.

Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala Bamboo Development Agency, Environment Management Agency Kerala, Energy Management Centre, Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology, Department of Industries, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre and Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment actively associated in the conduct of the Workshop. Bamboo Development Agency, Kerala, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Kerala Forest Development Corporation, Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Plantation Corporation of Kerala, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation and Oushadhi co-sponsored the events. The collaboration and co-sponsorship from these agencies are gratefully acknowledged.

I sincerely hope that the proceedings of this Workshop would certainly benefit all stakeholders including researchers, planners and decision makers in understanding the causes and problems of global warming as well as their own roles in managing them.

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