

## Restoration of ecology and layered reconstruction of eco system techniques for landslides affected areas in Sikkim

During the 9<sup>th</sup> General Body meeting of Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at CSIR Science Center, Lodi Estate, New Delhi, Dr. C.R. Babu, Professor (Emeritus) from Center for Environmental Management of Degraded Eco System, Delhi University and former Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University met Mr. Bhim Dhungel, Minister, Science & Technology, Government of Sikkim and Mr. M.L. Arrawatia, Secretary, Science & Technology, Government of Sikkim. Dr. C.R. Babu has worked extensively for restoration and afforestation of bhatti mined areas in and around Delhi. During the above referred meeting, he also supported for taking up extensive research programmes for landslide treatment in Sikkim. Dr. C.R. Babu expressed his willingness to provide his research expertise for landslide treatment.

He suggested that the method of Restoration of Ecology and layered reconstruction of ecosystem can very well be applied in the landslide affected degraded areas. The soils of landslide affected areas are also devoid of nutrients and organic carbon.

Dr. C.R. Babu is the leading authority in the field of 'Restoration Ecology'. The 'Restoration Ecology' is very 'hands-on' kind of science and could be seen as 'giving nature a kick-start'. The science of Restoration Ecology provides accelerated recreation of an original ecosystem in such a way that its health, its integrity and above all its sustainability is guaranteed.

The Bhatti Mines area around Delhi is the real showcase work of Prof. Babu. Before he started the works in these areas there was nothing, not a twig, not a single species of grass. It was a giant scar in the earth's crust: the barren remains of a deserted open-pit mine. It was bone dry, dusty, and utterly devoid of life. Now it's a self-sustaining 'three-layered forest', where even the people from the nearby village are part of the ecosystem. They use the grass as fodder, but in a controlled, sustainable way. The Restoration Ecology methods of Prof C.R. Babu is based on 'three layered forests' because the three layers are crucial when it comes to recreating an ecosystem. Before trees can grow, we need bushes, and before bushes can have a chance, the ground must be revitalised with the aid of grasses.

Contd....