



Revelations at DelhiWood 2019

The first North American-style home constructed using the light wood frame (LWF) method is now a part of the creative initiatives of Forestry Innovation Consulting-India (FII) to spread awareness and education about Canadian Wood and its species in the country.

The interest it has generated also prompted FII India to build a 2,000 sq ft house comprising a large living and dining area, two bedrooms, bathroom and outdoor decking, which was displayed at DelhiWood 2019.

FII India had a stall display measuring 250 sq m under the Canada Government pavilion. A Light Wood Frame (LWF) house structure covering 200 sq m was the main highlight of the FII India booth with an area of 50 sq m allotted to the participating 05 B.C. Lumber companies for kiosks. FII India showcased B.C. wood species in various applications under key product segments ranging from Light Wood Frame Construction, Cladding, Decking, Paneling, Window & Window Frame, Door & Door Frame, Roof, Trusses to Indoor & Outdoor Furniture.

Information was provided at the booth on available species and their applications as well as sustainable forest management practices in B.C., Canada through collaterals and interactive audiovisual kiosks. "Lightwood frame building is quick, easy, user-friendly, beautiful and is right for our planet because it is made from sustainable wood," says Peter Bradfield, Technical Advisor, FII India.

FII is aware that wooden houses are gaining popularity in India for resorts at beach locations and hill stations, and also for farmhouses and countryside home sites with infrastructure and access challenges, due to their advantage of being portable. They are also gaining attention due to their low carbon footprint.

This prompted FII to organize an LWF training for Indian T&G house manufacturers who liked what they saw at the exhibition and expressed interest in this method of construction. LWF construction is the assembly of dimensional lumber or engineered wood that is regularly spaced and fastened together with nails to create floor, wall and roof assemblies. The predominant method adopted is the very basic prefabricated tongue and mainly light structural lumber is used. It is milled from Conifers (softwood trees) such as spruce-pine-fir (SPF) that are sawn and machine-

planned to standard dimensions (2'x4', 2'x6', 2'x8', etc). LWF construction is light, as the name suggests, and allows quick construction with no heavy tools or equipment. It is able to adapt itself to any geometric shape and can be clad with a variety of materials.

FII India also organized a 10-day training program in North and South India. This hands-on training course required participants to learn through action on how to build a light timber-frame house from start to finish. The learning included all aspects of LWF construction from cutting, nailing, measuring and construction of the foundation and the floor, wall and roof framing, and bracing, using a variety of tools.

