

NETWORKING OF VAN VIGYAN KENDRA (VVK) AND KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (KVK)

Dr. V.K. Bahauguna, IFS, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) inaugurated the interactive meet of Tree Growers and distribution of casuarina seedlings developed by IFGTB for the Thane Cyclone affected farmers organised under Networking of VVK and KVK at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Villupuram located at Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu on 10.12.2012. The programme was organised by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore and KVK, Villupuram. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Shri T.S. Srinivasa Murthy, IFS, CCF, Forest Extension, Central Region, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Dr. Kalaiselvan, Director, Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Shri Yogesh, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle, Shri Manjunath, District Forest Officer, Villupuram, Shri Sekar, Joint Director, Agriculture, Villupuram, Shri A. Anil Kumar, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Puducherry Administration, Shri T.P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR, IFGTB, Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Head, Forest Economics and Extension, IFGTB, Dr. N. Sathiah, Programme Coordinator and Head, KVK, Tindivanam, Senior Officials from Forest Department, Agriculture Department, Scientists and staff, from KVK, Oilseed Research station, TNAU, IFGTB. Farmers undergoing the Degree Programme besides 130 farmers from Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tiruvanmalai Districts participated in the programme.

The interactive meet with tree growers organised under networking of VVK and KVK started with invocation " Tamizhthai Vazhthu". Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Head Forest Economics and Extension welcomed the gathering and highlighted the initiatives taken by ICFRE and IFGTB to reach out various stakeholders. Dr. N. Sathiah, Programme Coordinator, KVK Villupuram listed out the achievements the KVK has made in sensitizing the farmers and technology transfer to improve the farming system in the region. Shri T.S. Srinivasa Murthy, IFS, CCF, Forest Extension, Central region, TNFD informed that there are 30 extension centres in the state of Tamil Nadu and KVK, VVK and the extension centres should work in a convergence for effective transfer and application of technologies for improving the farming systems and farmers condition. Shri Sekar, Joint Director, Agriculture, Villupuram in his speech highlighted the scope for including the VVK in programmes like ATMA and requested to provide the quality planting material and cultivation and management technologies for other species like Teak, Melia, Gmelina, Cadamba, etc. Shri Kalai Selvan, Director, Extension Education, TNAU highlighted the importance of networking of KVK and VVK and how it helps in transfer of technologies related to Tree farming. He also urged the farmers to make use of such networking programmes and interact with officers and scientist who have vast knowledge on plantation management.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB in his address mentioned about the need for networking of VVK and KVK, the benefits for farmers on such interactive meet and the distribution of seedlings to farmers affected by Thane Cyclone. He said 33 per cent of

land area should be under tree cover. So, in each district there was a move to improve the forest cover and tree cover. There are over 600 companies selling agricultural seeds in India but only few companies are dealing with forestry species. Community seed orchards should come up in many areas so that good quality seed supply will be available in plenty in many areas to improve agro-forestry. About 145 trees have been domesticated having commercial value should be cultivated extensively to improve forest cover and to provide income. There is also a need for decentralized orchards to cater to the requirements of industries.

The farmers' representatives highlighted the issues related to poor returns, marketing of their produce, non availability of quality planting material, mechanization of harvesting of trees, etc.

Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS, DG, ICFRE inaugurated the interactive meet with tree growers by lighting the traditional lamp. He distributed the Casuarina seedlings raised from orchards of IFGTB to the farmers of Cuddlaore, Villupuram as announced by the Hon'ble Minister of state (independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on 23.2.2012 during the inauguration of Tree Growers Mela at IFGTB. He mentioned that The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) will provide all necessary support through products and technologies for tree farming and thereby improve the livelihood opportunities. ICFRE has introduced Direct to Consumers programme so that the results and findings of the research should reach the beneficiaries immediately. ICFRE through it institute IFGTB will promote Agroforestry, provide quality planting material and support for marketing Casuarina trees to help promote agro-forestry. He said ICFRE will explore the possibility of mechanization of harvesting. He said the fringe forests should be managed properly to improve the livelihood of people. Therefore, the integration of Van Vigyan Kendra and Krishi Vigyan Kendra would help to improve food security, water security and even facilitate better technology to reach farmers.

Shri T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Coordinator Research, IFGTB proposed the vote of Thanks.







Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE inaugurated the planting programme of Casuarina Demonstration plot in 1.2 acre at KVK farm using the seedlings raised from improved Seed orchard seeds of IFGTB for the benefit of farmers visiting the KVK under the networking of VVK and KVK. The planting programme was attended by 100 Agriculture Diploma students from C. Subramainam Institute of Agriculture located in KVK, Tindivanam. DG, ICFRE also inspected the Casuarina seedlings kept at temporary Casuarina nursery at KVK for distribution to the Thane Cyclone affected farmers of Villupuram District as announced by Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, Govt. of India on 23.2.2012 during Tree Growers Mela at IFGTB.

The Different varieties of Ground nut developed by the Oil Seed Research Station, the casuarina clones and seeds developed by IFGTB, other products and technologies developed by TNAU, IFGTB, KVK, Tindivanam and others were displayed at KVK for the benefit of farmers, officers and other delegates.





Earlier in the morning on 10.12.2012 Dr.V.K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE along with Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Shri T.P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR, Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Head, FE&E, Dr. A. Anil Kumar, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Puducherry Forest and Wildlife Department and officers visited the department nursery at Mettupalayam in Puducherry. He inspected the nursery and the Casuarina seedlings raised by IFGTB with the help of the forest department for distribution to the Puducherry farmers affected by thane cyclone. He also interacted with the staff of the department. IFGTB has already requested the department to allot 10 ha of land in Puducherry for establishment of VVK and Casuarina centre. DG, ICFRE has suggested to include Urban Forestry along with Casuarina since there is a vast scope for the subject in Puducherry and its surroundings.

He also paid visit to Ashram and looked at the condition of service tree and directed to send a team of scientists to restore and check further deterioration.





On 9.12.2012 Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS, Director General, ICFRE along with Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Shri T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Shri K. Ravichandran, IFS, Mr. Md. Shujauddin, DCF, Smt. R. Anandalakshmi, and Scientist inspected the IFGTB Field Research station at Gudalur located on the outskirts of Chennai. The Field Research station is established by getting land from Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Germplasms of Melia, Ailanthus, Cadamba, Gmelina, Calophyllum and genetic gain trails of Casuarina and Eucalyptus have been established in the field station. He planted a calophyllum and inaugurated the Field Gene bank of Calophyllum. Director, IFGTB informed DG that such Field Research Stations have been established in all seven major Agro climatic zones of Tamil Nadu with the support from the Forest department. Director also informed that besides the Field Research stations across Tamil Nadu, Three centres namely Teak centre at Walayar, Eucalyptus Centre at Trichy and Casuarina centre at Puducherry will be established by taking land from the respective forest department. Director General, ICFRE has appreciated the efforts put in by IFGTB in making such centres and also desired to put necessary facilities at the centres required for research and extension support.

