

Stakeholder meeting of Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore with Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation (TAFCON) held at Tiruchirappalli on 27st July, 2012

Stakeholders meeting with Tamilnadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited (TAFCON), which is a forerunner in plantation crops, supported by scientifically rich research interventions was conducted by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), at Tiruchirappalli on 27.07.2012. The Corporation has an area of 71,000 ha in Tamil Nadu, mainly planting Eucalyptus and Cashew. Every year about 3000 ha area is planted with Eucalyptus. The corporation raises both seed raised as well as clonal plantations. Most of the locations of TAFCON receives very less rainfall with poor soil quality. Economically viable plantation development and management in these areas is a challenge.

To understand the research problems in the Corporation and bring better cooperation between these two Institutions a stakeholder meeting was organised. Regional Managers of Divisions and key field staff of the Corporation and scientists representatives from IFGTB participated in the meeting. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB welcomed Dr. V.N. Singh, Managing Director, TAFCON and all other participants. Dr. V.N. Singh, MD, TAFCON delivered the introductory remarks. He invited open discussion on the research requirement of TAFCON from every one for improving the productivity of Eucalyptus plantations.



Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist IFGTB presented the research collaborations of IFGTB and TAFCON in Eucalyptus improvement. He also stress the need for continuation of the program in future. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist IFGTB presented the Inter-specific hybridization work done by him in Eucalyptus.



Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist, IFGTB explained the efforts taken to develop QTL for improved pulp yield in Eucalyptus. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB presented the expectation of IFGTB and future research cooperation between both the Institutions. Discussions were held to improve the productivity of the Eucalyptus plantations using improved seed sources/ clones. Training requirements of the TAFCON staff was also discussed.

Dr. V.N. Singh, MD, TAFCON concluded the discussion. He appreciated the initiatives of IFGTB in solving some the problems of TAFCON. Suggested to take some of the plantation management issues like fixing of financial rotation, yield assessment and prediction, quantitative and qualitative improvement in pulp yield and finding some alternate species for cultivation. He also stated that research requirements of IFGTB with reference to the land and finance can be met when suitable projects are proposed.