

IFGTB Conducted an “Awareness Training Workshop on The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” during March 19-21, 2013 for Various Implementation Agencies of Northern and North-Eastern India

An “Awareness Training Workshop on The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was conducted at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore during March 19-21, 2013 for various enforcement agencies involved in CITES implementation in northern and N-E India. Nineteen participants from various states representing Forestry Research Institutes, Customs and Excise, Police and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, including four revenue service officers had attended this training. This was the third such training programme being conducted for CITES implementation agencies. During the earlier two phases southern, central and western region of India were covered. These series of training programme have been conducted under the direction and funding support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

The training was inaugurated by the Shri. A. K Raghunathan IRS , Commissioner of Customs, Coimbatore Zone on 19-3-2013. Shri. Winston S. Suiting IFS Addl. PCCF Social Forestry, Ernakulam, Kerala Forest Department was invited as special guest. Dr. N. Krishnakumar IFS Director IFGTB, Shri. T. P. Raghunath Group Coordinator Research, Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS CCF, Silviculturist, Dr. B. Gurudev Singh Head Genetics and Tree Breeding Division, Shri. P. Subramanyam, IFS, Head of Office TFRI Jabalpur, Shri. K. Ravichandran IFS Head Economics & Extension Division, Dr. Maheshwar Hegde Training Course Coordinator and also other Scientists and officers of IFGTB attended the inaugural session.

The three-day training programme mainly covered about CITES, its structure, mode of working, procedures and criteria for inclusion of species, role of WCCB in wildlife crime control and implementation of CITES, Indian plant and animals species including birds, fishes and insects in various CITES Appendices and other issues related to CITES. Apart from scientist of IFGTB, experts from Kerala Forest Research Institute

(KFRI), SACON Coimbatore, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Chennai and Botanical Survey of India delivered specific lectures during this training. On 20-03-2013 a field visit to Anamalai Tiger Reserve Topslip and Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary was arranged to Participants to understand the control measures being taken up by Forest Departments in controlling wildlife and forest related crime at source.

Dr. V. K. Melkani IFS, Addl. PCCF Project Tiger, Tamil Nadu Forest Department was invited as Chief Guest during the Valedictory session of the Training on 21-03-2013. Dr. N. Krishnkumar IFS, Director IFGTB chaired the panel discussion and expressed that awareness about CITES and conservation of biodiversity is essential for scientific and implementation agencies and such trainings will bring cooperation and coordination among all the CITES implementation agencies. The Chief Guest Dr. V. K. Melkhani addressed the participants and briefed about the historical perspective of conservation of wildlife and biodiversity in India. He spoke about need of coordination and cooperation of various departments like customs, Forest Department, DRI, Police etc., which is very effective in controlling wildlife related crime. Shri. A. S. Jafry Addl. PCCF and Director Tamil Nadu Forest Academy was invited as special guest expressed that the participants obtained training on such topics can act as trainers for other people in their department and make the trainings very effective. Shri. S. M Akhter, IRS Additional Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi who participated in the training described customs experiences in curbing smuggling of red sanders, wildlife trophies etc.,

The training programme was concluded by distribution of certificates to the participants by the Chief Guest and vote of thanks by Dr. Maheshwar Hegde, Training Course Coordinator. All the participants expressed that the training was well structured and highly useful for them.



Inaugural Session of Training



Lecture Session



Participants during Field Visit



The Valedictory session of the Training



The Chief Guest Dr. V. K. Melkhani giving away the certificates to participants.