

Establishment of mother bed chamber facility at IFGTB, Coimbatore



The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has established a Mother Bed Chamber Facility in an area of 180 sq. mt for vegetative multiplication of *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina Ailanthus*, *Melia*, Bamboos, *Thespesia* and *Acacia*. This multiplication facility with ten propagation trenches has provision for misting, drip irrigation and fertigation. Each trench is filled with sand as the multiplication medium with suitable drainage facilities. The trenches can accommodate a maximum of 9000 mother stools, which can be maintained to produce multiple shoots for large scale propagation. The nutrient management for the mother stools is essential to induce multiple shoot production, size of cuttings, rooting percentage and the survival percentage of plantlets produced. The sanitary quality of the medium and the conditions of humidity and drainage in the chamber are critical to ensure quality planting stock production. The facility is useful for mass multiplication of superior clones developed by the institute. Through this facility superior clones and planting stocks will be multiplied and made available to clients under direct to consumer program and also the extension of technology mission of IFGTB.