

IFGTB ENTERS INTO AN MOU WITH KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT ON TREE IMPROVEMENT

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) was signed between Shri A.K. Verma, IFS, PCCF and HoFF, Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) and Dr. N. Krishnakumar Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore on 30.1.2013 at Aaranya Bhavan, Karnataka Forest Department HQ, Bangalore. Shri G. Selvakumar, APCCF (Research and Utilisation), senior forest officials from the Department and Scientists, Dr. J.P. Jacob and Dr. Rekha R. Warriar from IFGTB were present. The MoU, signed for a period of five years, facilitates joint ventures in tree improvement covering some economically important tree species, their trainings with emphasis on genetics and silviculture etc. and allied technologies, harnessing the professional know-how and expertise available with the IFGTB. IFGTB also made a presentation highlighting the Institute's strengths in areas of tree improvement. IFGTB and KFD have mutually agreed to jointly carry out activities related to Genetic Improvement of teak *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina*, Bamboos, *Melia dubia*, *Ailanthus spp.*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Gmelina arborea* and Acacias and any other species assigned by the Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and PCCF (HOFF), Karnataka State from time to time for the benefit of major user agencies like the Forest departments, Forest Development Corporations, Forest based Industries, Farmers and other user groups and any other activity like extension, training, awareness including establishment of Van-Vigyan Kendras, Museums, forest herbariums and the like. This was followed by signing up of an agreement by both the parties for support to a project on "Establishment of south zonal germplasm bank of *Melia dubia*".

