

INAUGURATION OF RESEARCH STATION OF IFGTB AT NEYVELI

The Institute of Forest genetics and Tree Breeding has been establishing research stations at various agro-climatic zones in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Institute presently has stations established at Panampally and Walayar in Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, centres have been established at Kurichi and Sadivayal in Coimbatore, Kurumbapatti in Salem and Gudalur in Chennai.

The latest one was inaugurated on 13.12.13 at Neyveli by the Director, Dr. N. Krishnakumar. Covering an area of 25 ha, it is proposed to maintain Germplasm of different species namely *Casuarinas*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Melia dubia*, *Sapindus emarginatus*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, Teak, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Ailanthus*, *Neolamarkia cadamba* and *Leucaena leucocephala*. Planting activities have commenced.

Once established, this centre would serve as a genetic resource centre housing all the FGR species which the Institute is working on. This centre would, in future, serve as a field gene bank, functioning as a source for supply of quality planting stock in the form of seeds and seedlings.

Besides under EFC, species multiplication centers have been established in Walayar, Kerala for teak cum miscellaneous species and for eucalyptus and miscellaneous species near Trichy. Very shortly a species multiplication centre will be established in Pondicherry for which land has been requested from Pondicherry Forest Department. These centres have enabled for streamlining research project better observations and monitoring. The Centres also hold many progeny, provenance trials and orchards for economically important tree species. The centres will also cater to seed requirement needs of farmers for various tree species in future. These centres will not only serve as research centre but also serve as Extension and Education centre for Foresters, Farmers and Students of Forestry.



Inauguration of the centre and the shed at Neyveli



Director in discussion with Shri R.S. Prasanth, HoD, FLUCC Division and Shri M. Palane, RA II



Bhoomi Pooja and planting of first seedling by Director



Shri RS Prasanth and Shri T.P. Raghunath, GCR planting seedlings of different species



Shri P. Manivachakam, RO and Dr. R. Anandalakshmi planting various species



Planting in full swing in the area