

Two days training workshop on “**Bioprospecting – role of state forest departments**” for **Indian Forest Service Officers** (IFS) during 1&2 August, 2013 was held at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Twenty five (25) officers from thirteen states (13) viz., Chattishgarh, Uttarpradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharastra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Odhisha, West Bengal. The training workshop was presided over by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore in his presidential address, he informed that forests which have tremendous potential for bioprospecting values and it is the right time to conserve our biological wealth for social and livelihood security. Hence, MoEF is planning to establish National Bureau of Forest Genetic Resources and IFGTB has been identified as a nodal agency to develop FGR management network. Conservation and sustainable utilization of our biological diversity is the step-in process for Bioprospecting. Padmasri Dr. P.R. Krishnakumar, MD, Arya Vaidhya Pharmacy, Coimbatore inaugurated the training workshop. He insisted that only 960 medicinal plants out of 7000 known medicinal plants are used in Ayurvedic medicine, and many more are still waiting scientific interventions. Sustainable management and harvesting of medicinal plant in wild is more effective in preparing herbal medicine than in cultivable lands. Certain medicinal plants can be cultivated in social forestry and TOFs. Dr. S. Murugesan, Training Co-ordinator gave an over view of the training workshop. The training programme includes lectures on nanotechnology, biotechnology, genomics, phytochemistry, plant products, bioprospecting values in western ghats and factory visit to Arya Vaidhya Pharmacy at Kanjeekode. Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist, Bioprospecting Division of IFGTB concluded the training workshop with formal vote of thanks. The participant officers have expressed their view that the training program was excellent and well organized. Further, they opined that the training workshop gave opportunity to have networking with R&D institutions, state forest departments, industries etc. for the supply of medicinal plants for herbal products which will help livelihood support for tribal community.



Participants of two days training workshop on Bioprospecting for IFS officers held on 1&2 August, 2013 at IFGTB, Coimbatore



Chief Guest Padmasri Dr. P.R. Krishnakumar, MD, Arya Vaidhya Pharmacy released training manual on the occasion of training on Bioprospecting, for IFS officers held on 1&2 August, 2013.