

Training programme on 'Agroforestry models – establishment and management' to other stakeholders

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, has organised three days training programme on 'Agroforestry models – Establishment and Management' on 21-23, January, 2014 at IFGTB. This program has been sponsored by the Ministry of Environment of Forests, New Delhi, mainly to the other stakeholders such as elected public representatives, NGO's, educational institutions, press and media and social activists. A total of 30 participants from NGO's, educational institutions, panchayat and elected public representatives from Tirunelveli and Theni district of Tamil Nadu were participated in the training programme. Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR, welcomed the Chief Guest and the participants and briefed about the three days training programme. The training programme was presided by Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS emphasized the role of agroforestry and trees outside forests in achieving the goal of 33% green cover. He also highlighted the government's efforts in supporting different programmes in tree farming and experiences of IFGTB in establishment of economically viable different agroforestry models for increasing the farm income. The training programme was inaugurated by the chief guest Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director, Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. While delivering the inaugural address, the chief guest pointed out the need of 'agroforestry practices' and the importance of the various industrial based agroforestry models, specially suitable under the rainfed condition for higher economic returns. He also elaborated the marketing strategy and tree insurance in tree farming activities. Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, HOD, FLUCC division, thanked the chief guest, MoEF, New Delhi for financial support for conducting the training programme and the participants. During the three days training programme, various topics were covered in detail viz. tree cultivation in farm lands – experience from Tree Cultivation in Private Land and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Programme in Tamil Nadu, tree-crop interactions, cultivation of bamboo in farm lands, fast growing indigenous based agroforestry systems, establishment and management of industrial based

agroforestry systems with Eucalyptus and Casuarina, role of bio-fertilizers, economic analysis of various agroforestry systems, tree borne oil seeds based agroforestry models, role of bio-pesticides in agroforestry, pest and disease control in agroforestry systems and importance of soil management under agroforestry systems by the scientists of IFGTB as resource persons. As an integral part of this programme, the participants were taken on one day field visit to nearby areas for sharing the experience with the farmers' who are practicing various agroforestry viz. *Melia dubia*, Bamboo, Casuarina and *Gmelina arborea*, etc. and interacted with the farmers' on cultivation techniques, management strategy, marketing avenues, etc. This is for the first time, this type of training programme organized for the 'other stakeholders' mainly for popularization of TOF for better livelihood and higher economic returns.



Welcome address by Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR. Special address by Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB.



Inaugural address by Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director, Extension Education, TNAU.

Field visit



Lectures on 'Agroforestry models – establishment and management'



Field visits to Bamboo and Melia dubia based models



Feed back from the participants



Visit to vegetative multiplication garden



Visit to shade house and demonstration of vegetative multiplication techniques



Distribution of certificate and the products developed by IFGTB to the participants