

Inauguration of Geomatics Lab at IFGTB, Coimbatore

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has established a Geomatics Lab covering Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) facilities under the Forest Research and Information Management (FRIM) Division of the institute. **The Geomatics lab was inaugurated by Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director (Extension Education) and Dr R. Sivasamy, Professor and Head, Department of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 21st January 2014** at the institute in the presence of Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR, Shri. R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Head, FLUCC division, R.Vivekanandan, Head, FRIM Division and all the scientists and Research Officers of IFGTB.

The Geomatics lab of IFGTB would take up studies on Biodiversity characterization of vegetated areas, Vegetation change deduction and analysis, Assessment and monitoring of forest cover, Fragmentation and neighborhood analysis, Monitoring forest health (Diseases and Insect attack), carbon pool assessment, Growing stock assessment, Coastal area/Mangrove vegetation mapping, inventory of Trees outside the Forests in the mandatory states of Tamilnadu, Kerala, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands including Western and Eastern Ghats. It will also take up Web enabled spatial information system/application related to research undertaken on different forest species of importance for the benefit of various stakeholders.

During the inauguration **Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB** opined that Remote sensing and Geographical Information System have revolutionized the process of obtaining accurate data, processing and utilization for efficient management of the biodiversity and other natural resources. He informed that the Geomatics Lab of the Institute is equipped with state-of-art computing facility and input/output devices to meet various remote sensing and GIS data processing requirements. He also informed that the institute would undertake research programmes using GIS and RS in collaboration with State Forest departments, Forest corporations, Forest Survey of India (FSI) and other reputed institutions in the country.

Sh. R. Vivekanandan, Scientist-E & Head, Forest Research Information Management (FRIM) Division gave a detailed presentation on the various activities being currently undertaken in the Geomatics lab. He informed that the Institute has acquired a variety of RS & GIS software's such as ERDAS Imagine, ArcGIS Editor, ArcView and several other

open source softwares. He also informed that the institute has already taken up mapping and distribution of Casuarinas and Eucalyptus plantations in Tamilnadu and also involved in biomass estimation of the above species using RS & GIS technology.

Sh. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR stated that the institute is planning to undertake spatial mapping and biomass estimation using RS and GIS technology for some of the important species viz. *Tectona grandis*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *A. mangium*, *Ailanthus excelsa*, *A. triphysa*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Melia dubia*, *Thespesia populnea* etc. in Tamilnadu, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Dr. R. Sivasamy, Professor and Head, Department of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore have a detailed lecture on “Introduction to GIS and its applications in Forestry” in the seminar Hall of institute. All the officers, scientists and Research officers of the institute attended the lecture and discussed with him on the applications of GIS in various fields of forestry. **Dr A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-C**, FRIM Division delivered vote of thanks.



Inauguration of Geomatics Lab by the Chief Guest



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Director, IFGTB briefing on the facilities and importance of Geomatics Lab



**Briefing on the activities of Geomatics Lab,
Sh. Vivekanandan, Scientist-E and Head, FRIM Division**



Dr. R. Sivasamy, Professor TNAU, Coimbatore delivering the lecture