

INAUGURATION OF FIELD RESEARCH STATIONS OF IFGTB AT TRICHY AND TIRUNELVELI ON 13 AUGUST 2014

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has in the recent past developed Research Stations in i) Kurichi, Coimbatore, ii) Kurumbapatti, Salem, iii) Gudalur, Chennai and Neyveli. In continuation of this effort, two more research stations have been developed and inaugurated on 13 August 2014 viz. **Thuvarankurichi Research Station** in Trichy Forest Division and **Manakarai Research Station** in Tirunelveli Forest Division.

In Thuvarankurichi Research Station, Inauguration of the station was done by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB in the presence of Shri. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB and Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head, Forestry, Land Use and Climate Change Division, IFGTB. Other officials from IFGTB present were Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist-E, Dr. R. Anandhalakshmi, Scientist-E, Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist-B, Shri A. Durai, Research Officer. Officials from Tamil Nadu State Forest Department were Shri. R. Christopher Thomas, Forest Range Officer and Shri. P. Velumani, Forester. Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS Head of FLUCC Division welcomed the gathering and briefed about the efforts taken for acquiring land of 10 ha in Thuvarankurichi for research station which is about 60 km away from Trichy. He also mentioned on the need of such supports for forestry research to minimize anthropogenic pressure on the forests as well as to support livelihood of farming community through tree improvement programmes. Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS Director, IFGTB delivered inaugural address and opined that this effort of developing Field Stations should be a participatory approach wherein IFGTB, State Forest Department and Farming community adjoining to the research station should work hand in hand for mutual benefits and maximizing fruitfulness of the research results being derived from all the field trials established in these field stations. The tree stands established in these field stations should also serve in future as Seed Orchards for many indigenous tree species to meet the need of Quality Seed Supply of forestry species. Director, IFGTB also suggested that Thuvarankurichi being the hub of Eucalyptus species, all the superior clones of eucalyptus developed by IFGTB need to be assembled in this Field Station besides assemblage of indigenous species. Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS delivered felicitation address and informed the gathering about all appreciable initiatives of IFGTB right from research, education and to extension. He opined that good linkages have been developed with State Forest Department through these initiatives and this should be sustained in the coming future. As a part of the function, i) Establishment of Vegetative Multiplication Garden of Eucalyptus clones, ii) field trial of pulp/energy producing Subabul, iii) Clonal trial of Sapindus and iv) Filed trial of Gmelina were initiated in this field station.

In the afternoon of 13 August 2013, Manakarai Research Station of IFGTB in Tirunelveli was inaugurated by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS Director, IFGTB in the presence of Shri. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB and Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head, Forestry, Land Use and Climate Change Division, IFGTB. Other officials from IFGTB present were Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist-E, Dr. R. Anandhalakshmi, Scientist-E, Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist-B. Officials from Tamil Nadu State Forest Department were Shri. Nellainayagam, Forest Range Officer and Shri. Rajendran, Forester. Director, IFGTB appraised the Department official on the need for support of Forest Department in developing this research station for the

benefit of tree cultivation outside the forests. Director recommended for the use of this station for the ICFRE umbrella project on Tree Fodder species. This research station can contribute for the promotion of Dry land Agroforestry with special emphasis on Silvi-pastures with collaboration of adjoining Agricultural College and Research Institute of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at Killikulam and National Research Centre for Agroforestry, Jhansi.



Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB inaugurated Field Research Station in Thuvankurichi in Trichy District of Tamil Nadu in the presence of Shri. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB and Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head, Forestry, Land Use and Climate Change Division, IFGTB.



Welcome address delivered by Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head, Forestry, Land Use and Climate Change Division, IFGTB



Inaugural address delivered by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Felicitations address by Shri. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB



Planting of Gmelina in progeny trial by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Planting of Sapindus in Clonal trial by Shri. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB



Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head of Division planting Gmelina in progeny trial



Planting of Pulp and Energy producing Subabul in progeny trial by Staff of IFGTB and Tamil Nadu State Forest Department



Planting of superior clones of Eucalyptus as Vegetative Multiplication Garden in
Thuvarankurichi



Participatory planning for future activities in Thuvarankurichi



Manakkarai Research Station of IFGTB in Tirunelveli inaugurated by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Inauguration of a building in Manakkarai Research Station by Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Head of Division



Interaction with Forest Department Officials in Manakarai Research Station