

Note on Professional Attachment training for ICAR Scientist at IFGTB, Coimbatore

As a new initiative of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), newly appointed scientists of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has to undergo three months Professional Attachment Training for a period of three months at some National Institute of repute in their discipline. As a part of this initiative, National Research Centre for Agroforestry (NRCAF), Jhansi identified Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore as National Institute of Repute for training scientist of ICAR on the discipline Tree Improvement and **Shri. Uthappa, A.R.**, -a newly joined Scientist of NRCAF has been attached with IFGTB, Coimbatore for three months professional attachment training. The period of training is from 12.05.2014 to 11.08.2014. The schedule of this programme broadly consisted of i) Interactions with scientists of IFGTB who are actively involved in tree improvement programmes, ii) visits to labs and field stations of IFGTB for hands on training on tree improvement activities and iii) attachment with tree breeder Dr. Maheswar T. Hegde for a dissertation work on 'Indirect estimation of wood density in *Acacia mangium* through resistograph'. The study was carried out in *Acacia mangium* progeny trial at Pallode, Kerala. Thirty three families of *Acacia mangium* were considered for the study. For each family, wood density was measured with the traditional volumetric method and then compared with the Resistograph readings (amplitude). Then the observations were subjected to correlation and regression analysis. The results suggest that wood density and resistograph resistance had a significant and high positive correlation. Results also suggest that the Resistograph could be used reliably and efficiently to assess relative wood density of live trees for selection in tree improvement programs. The method is rapid, non- destructive, and much cheaper than the traditional volumetric method.

In the mid of training period on 30.06.2014, the dissertation work of the trainee was reviewed by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, Director, IFGTB along with other scientists of the institute and valuable corrective measures and suggestion were given for fine tuning of technical programme of the dissertation work. Final presentation on research work done by Shri. Uthappa, A. R. was made on 08.08.2014. Dr. C.Buvaswaran, Scientist-E, Training Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the gatherings. After the technical presentation of dissertation work of the trainee, there were a fruitful interactions and discussions with scientists of IFGTB. Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB appreciated the work of Shri. Uthappa, A. R. and congratulated him for successful completion of his professional attachment training at IFGTB. **The Director opined that such training would enable building and strengthening rapport between ICAR and ICFRE. Young scientists of both organizations can work on collaborative projects covering Agroforestry and other areas of rural livelihoods. The Director said that he looks forward to more ICAR trainees coming to ICFRE and vice versa for forestry and agricultural gains in the**

Country. At the end, Shri. Uthappa, A.R. received the training completion Certificate from the Director, IFGTB. Dr. Maheswar T. Hegde, Scientist-E, Supervisor of the dissertation works of the trainee delivered vote of thanks to all who were present and contributed for the successful completion this training programme.

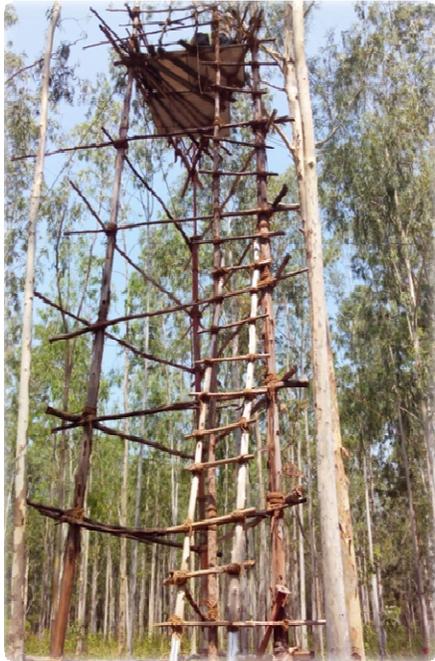


Image: a



Image: b

Image: c



Image: d



Image: e

Images: a)-ladder constructed for pollination in Eucalyptus sps; **b) and c)**- pollinating Eucalyptus sps at a height of 15 meters above ground; **d) and e)** -visit to Panampally field station with Dr. B.Nagarajan – reproductive biologist



Image: a



Image: b



Image: c



Image: d



Image: e



Image: f

Images: a) – flowers of Casuarina sp; **b)**- controlled pollination in Casuarina sp – explained by Dr. A. Nicodemus-Tree Breeder ; **c).**Vegetative Multiplication Area; **d), e)** and **f)**- preparation of cuttings in Casuarina sp



Visit to Casuarina clonal trials used in windbreak agroforestry system development along with Dr. C.Buvaswaran – Agroforestry scientist



Shri Uthappa, trainee measuring wood density using resistograph



Shri Uthappa, trainee presenting research activity carried out by him during the training



Discussion session after the final presentation



Shri. Uthappa, A.R. receiving the training completion Certificate from the Director, IFGTB



Trainee with Officers and Scientists of IFGTB