

Two days Training
on
'Diagnosis of Soil for Production'
(28.01.2014 & 29.01.2014)

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore had organized a two day training programme on 'Diagnosis of Soil for Production' to other stakeholders viz., NGO's, Panchayat, Elected Public Representatives, Representatives from Educational Institutions, Press, Media, Banking Institutions and Social activities during 28 - 29, January 2014, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. A total of 32 participants from the above categories from Coimbatore, Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu and Palakkad district of Kerala participated in the training. The inaugural function of the training programme started with an invocation followed by the welcome address by Shri T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Group Coordinator (Research), IFGTB, wherein he briefed about the training programme and informed that the training was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. Dr. A.C. Surya Prabha, Scientist-C and the Training Coordinator gave an overview of the training programme.

Dr.N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB delivered the special address. He emphasized upon the importance of soil management for sustainable agricultural production and environmental protection. He informed that soil fertility maintenance is essential for enhancing crop growth. He also stressed upon the role of 'Soil Doctors' and the need for development of new technologies to improve soil fertility. He also highlighted upon soil monitoring and novel soil management strategies that could be accomplished through investment in interdisciplinary research. The Chief Guest, Dr. K. Velayutham, Director, Crop Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore inaugurated the training programme and delivered the inaugural address. He stated that Green Revolution had made India self-sufficient in food production but it brought into focus ill-effect of intensive cropping and indiscriminate use of inorganic fertilizers on soil quality, with hardly any attention paid to balanced fertilizer use and efficient utilization of organic manures. He informed that globally ten million hectares of land

has been exposed to several kinds of degradation and in the state of Tamil Nadu nearly 4.5 lakh hectares is affected by problems of salinity and sodicity. He insisted upon the application of organic manures to the soil for improving soil fertility. He also stressed upon the importance of soil testing as an important tool to assess plant nutrient needs and as a very useful strategy to formulate crop and site-specific nutrient recommendations. The inaugural function ended with formal vote of thanks by Shri. R.S. Prashanth, IFS and Head, Forestry Land Use and Climate Change Division, IFGTB. During the two days training programme, the participants were exposed to various topics of soil diagnosis viz., importance of soil testing, soil physical constraints and their management, balanced fertilization for sustaining soil health, organic manures and soil fertility, role of bio fertilizers, ways to improve fertilizer use efficiency, micronutrient deficiencies in soil and plants and their management, soil test and yield target based fertilizer prescription through IPNS, problem soils and their management, irrigation water analysis, soils under agroforestry systems, and soil management in forest plantations. A field visit was also arranged to Field Station at Panampally, where the participants were exposed to detailed study of soil profile under forest ecosystem. Also, diagnosis of soil under field conditions was demonstrated by estimating soil pH and electrical conductivity. The training programme ended with distribution of certificates to the participants followed by formal vote of thanks by Dr. A.C. Surya Prabha, Scientist-C, IFGTB & Training Coordinator.



Welcome address by Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR



Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB welcoming the Chief Guest



Special address by Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB.



Inaugural address by Dr. K. Velayutham, Director, Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore.



Trainees with Director, IFGTB and Chief Guest



Scientist delivering lecture



Scientists delivering lecture



Scientists delivering lecture



Field visit



Field visit



Feedback from participants



Feedback from participants



Distribution of Certificates



Distribution of Certificates