

## Extension activities during the month of February 2014

1. A three day sensitization course on Forest, Wildlife and Environment Conservation was carried out at the Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore from the 4<sup>th</sup> of February to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014, under the scheme “Training of Personnel of Other Services” of the MoEF, Delhi. A total of 27 “Group B” officers of various departments like Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Agriculture, Veterinary, Central office, Social Welfare and Police attended the training programme. The training programme that ensued after the inauguration included talks and presentation by eminent personalities from different fields and concluded with a visit to the Bannerghata National Park, situated in the out skirts of Bangalore. The talks and presentation by various speakers covered aspects like law, interface of tribals and forests, climate change and its importance today, role of NGO’s in environment conservation, Forest and wild life conservation through Village Forest Committees, Wildlife conservation and ecotourism scenario in India with special reference to Karnataka, Man- Animal Conflict, Importance of utilizing wood, Status of Sandal wood with special reference to Karnataka state, Bio-diversity Conservation etc. The trainees in their feed back mentioned the fact that the training was very good and useful and suggested that, three days training is too short a period and could be increased to one week.









2. A total of 48 range officer trainees from Kushalnagara in Karnataka visited IWST in the forenoon of 7th February, 2014. Dr. Sujatha delivered a lecture on wood identification in important timber species. They were also taken to AWTC (Advanced Wood Working and Training Centre), museum and also briefed about the research activities being undertaken by the Institute.





3. A total of 34 students from Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam visited IWST on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2014. They were given an exposure to the various research activities being undertaken by the Institute. Visits to the Tissue Culture Lab, Xylaria, AWTC and Museum were organized. A demo of the Boucherie technology was done by Smt. D. Venmalar, Scientist – C of the institute.





4. A total of 24 students from Orissa College of Forestry visited on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2014. They were briefly explained about the research activities being undertaken in the institute by Dr. Anil Kumar Sethy, Scientist-c. They were taken to various labs, museum, AWTC and wood workshop to expose them to some of the research activities being undertaken.





5. A total of 57 students from Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College For Women , Bangalore visited IWST on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February,2014. They

were given a brief introduction by the extension officer followed by visits to Tissue Culture Lab, AWTC, Wood workshop and museum.





6. The Bamboo Society Of India, Bangalore organized an International Bamboo Conclave & Expo - 2014 on February 22-23, 2014 at the University of Agriculture Sciences, GKVK campus, Bangalore. As a part of the conclave, IWST, Bangalore had set up a stall to showcase the technologies developed by the Institute. The stall evoked very good response and there were a number of queries regarding Bamboo and Sandal cultivation. IWST publications worth more than Rs. 6000/- were sold during the conclave.
  
7. The annual training programme on Sandalwood – Seed Handling, Nursery and Plantation Technology was organized at IWST from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2014. A total of 15 farmers from different parts of the country attended the five day training programme. A holistic training covering all aspects of sandalwood was given to the farmers, including field trips. The topics covered include Modern Nursery Technology, Sandal Seed Technology, Tree Improvement aspects, Policy and Schemes of State Forest Dept. for encouraging raising of Sandal, Sandal based agroforestry models & Economics of sandal cultivation, Sandal Utilization and assessment of oil content, Management of pests and diseases in Sandal Nursery and Biofertilisers.



8. The *International Seminar on “Sandalwood: Current Trends and Future Prospects”* was organized by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) Bangalore during 26-28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. This seminar was inaugurated by His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka, Dr. Hans Raj Bhardwaj in the presence of Dr. Veerappa Moily, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India and Dr. S. S. Garbyal, Director General (Forests) and Special Secretary to Government of India. This International Seminar was a part of the year-long celebration of the Platinum jubilee of IWST Bangalore. In his welcome address, Dr. V. Ramakantha, the Director of IWST fondly remembered His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Shri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, renowned as *Raja Rishi*, who envisioned the importance of sandalwood and established the Forest Research Laboratory in 1938, which has now blossomed into IWST.

Dr.S.S.Garbyal, DG (Forests) and Special Secretary to the Government of India delivered the keynote address wherein he put forward the current status of sandalwood and the measures that have been taken to save this species.

The Union Minister Dr. M. Veerappa Moily expressed his great affection for Sandalwood and stated that the world recognizes that the Indian Sandalwood is the best in the world. He emphasized that sandalwood is Karnataka’s pride and that every office and house in the State should have a sandalwood tree. He concluded that it would be a great tragedy for Kannadigas if Sandalwood disappears from this Gandhada Gudi.

In his address, His Excellency Dr. Hans Raj Bhardwaj mentioned that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the major natural habitats of sandalwood and has witnessed a drastic decline of sandalwood in its natural habitat. He said that Sandalwood is not only economically important species, but has ecological, socio-cultural, religious significance and an integral part of the cultural heritage of the people of Karnataka, he extolled the people to grow sandalwood. He further desired that the governments at central and state level should come out with suitable policies and strategies for the conservation of the species. He expressed his love for the sandalwood handicrafts and urged that the artisans need be taken care of and the industry strengthened.

His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka felicitated Mrs. R.A. Srimathi, a renowned scientist who has carried out pioneering research on Sandalwood. She is now 83 years old, but still pursues her academic interest.

This International Seminar has representation from countries like Australia, Fiji, Hawaii, Pacific Islands and Sri Lanka, which are home to different species of sandalwood. The seminar was attended by people from different parts of the society like researchers, forest officers, industrialists, farmers, plantation owners, entrepreneurs and others.



9. A training programme on “Field identification of important timber” was organized for Range Forest Officers (RFO) of Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) during 10-14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. A total of 10 RFOs from different forest divisions attended the training. It was the third batch of RFOs sponsored by the KFD. The trainees were provided hands-on experience in identifying anatomical features of wood with the help of a magnifying hand lens which is fundamental in wood identification. The trainees expressed their contentment at the end of the training programme and cited that it will be very helpful to them in the field





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