

Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, IFS, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore attended the Regional Workshop for Asia, Pacific and Oceania on identification of timber species and origins at Beijing China on 20th and 21st August, 2013. The workshop was organized by Bioversity International, Global timber tracking network, (GTTN), APAFRI, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany. Over 75 participants from 20 countries attended the meeting.

The discussion centered around unsustainable illegal logging and trade in illegally harvested forest products which has social, economic and ecological ramifications.

Many methods are in vogue to identify timber which involve conventional methods like wood anatomy, use of xylarium. Today there are lot of other tools like DNA finger prints, use of genetic markers for bar coding, use of stable isotopes , NIR spectroscopy, deployment of sniffer dogs, identification of wood fibres, machines to track timber. Innovative tracking technologies for identification of timber species and origins like DNA finger prints and isotopes is being increasingly used in many countries. Bioversity international in 2012 established GTTN – Global Timber Tracking Network. The objectives of GTTN is to use new and emerging techniques for species identification, establishing origin of timber and wood products to control illegal logging.



Inauguration of the workshop



The workshop delegates at Beijing China



Workshop sessions in progress



Working Group discussions

