

Forest produce to be marketed at IFGTB soon



V.K. Bahuguna (second right), Director-General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, presents a grafted variety of tamarind to a farmer at the Tree Growers Mela in the city on Thursday. N. Krishnakumar (right), Director, IFGTB, is in the picture. — PHOTO: K. ANANTHAN

Special Correspondent

COIMBATORE: A store, Prerna, to market the products of rural artisans, produce of the Joint Forest Management Committees and the products developed through research, will be opened soon at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), said V.K. Bahuguna, Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), here on Thursday.

At the inauguration of the two-day Tree Growers Mela organised by the IFGTB, Mr. Bahuguna said besides providing a platform to market the produce, the shop would help take the innovations from the laboratory to the land at a faster pace.

To ensure that the researches reached farmers on time, the Van Vigyan Kendras would soon be networked with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Forestry Extension Centres of the State Forest Department in 30 districts of Tamil Nadu.

Responding to the grievance of the tree growers regarding shortage of harvesters, Mr. Bahuguna said that ICFRE sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh for procuring harvesters and the equipment would be provided to farmers who would be divided in clusters.

He also announced the sanction of Rs. 60 lakh to farmers in Tamil Nadu, Pudukcherry and Kerala to raise high quality seedlings and another Rs. 25 lakh for commer-

cialisation of products developed out of research.

District Collector M. Karunakaran, who inaugurated an expo, said that waste management with special reference to plastics was becoming a major challenge in urban areas. Degradation of forests, rapid urbanisation for livelihood, education and various other needs, and industrialisation were hitting the environment hard. Forestry was the key to all environment issues.

Chair of Excellence of ICFRE on Forest Genetic Resources S. Nagarajan urged the researchers and farmers to try going for inter-crops among trees, to get some regular returns even while waiting for the trees to yield after six years.

Ryots to Tour States to Share Knowledge

Express News Service

Coimbatore: The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) will soon begin a unique programme in which farmers from Tamil Nadu will visit other states to learn agricultural practices there and share their knowledge with the farmers there. Selected farmers would be taken for a free tour along with scientists from ICFRE before the next monsoon.

Speaking at the fifth edition of Tree Growers Mela at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) here on Thursday, Dr V K Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE, said that the new venture is the first of its kind in the country as the farmers are accompanied by scientists.

The unique idea was suggested by Dr S Nagarajan, Chair of Excellence, Forest Genetics Research, at the forum and was immediately considered by the ICFRE director general.

"Groups of farmers comprising 11 members can be constituted for the programme. The whole expenditure for the three-week tour would be borne by the department," Bahuguna said.

Apart from this, ICFRE would start operating a networking with Krishi Vignan Kendra and Vana Vignan Kendra and extension centres of the Forest Department in 30 locations.

Moreover, the ICFRE would create more Vana Vignan Kendras and its scientists will network with the Forest Department's extension centres for the benefit of farmers.



Dr V K Bahuguna (third from right), director general of ICFRE releasing a booklet at 'Tree Growers Mela' in Coimbatore on Thursday. Collector M Karunakaran also seen | Express

RISE OF 2°C OVER 25 YEARS IN INDIA

Coimbatore: The ICFRE will soon submit a study report on climate change in the country to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. The study by ICFRE has found that the average temperature in the country has increased by up to 2 degrees Celsius over the last 25 years, M H Swaminath, Chair of Excellence, Climate Change, said on the sidelines of the Tree Growers Mela which opened here on Thursday. The report is titled 'Forest Types on India - Revisited'. "We have completed the study. Analysis of the data is being done. The report will include relevant findings on the impact of climate change," said Swaminath. "Developmental activities and rapid urbanisation has affected the climate in the country like many other developing nations. After analysing 80 years' data, we have found significant increase in temperature over the last 25 years. Central India and the Himalayan region have been affected most," he said. Meanwhile, a top ICFRE official said there is little chance of increasing the area under forests in the country. The target of 33 per cent can be achieved only by planting trees in the marginal land under agriculture.

ENS

"With this farmers can get direct information from scientists on high quality seedlings, production and plantation technology," he said.

In response to the frequent demand from farmers for machines to harvest trees, ICFRE has planned to allot ₹25 lakh to farmers for harvesting machines which would reduce the amount of wastage while harvesting. The money would be given to the IFGTB, which would further allocate it to farmers.

The ICFRE has set also apart ₹60 lakh for high quality seedling production centres in Tamil Nadu, Puduch-

erry and Kerala.

Apart from this, ICFRE will open 'Prerana' outlets in the city at a cost of ₹25 lakh to commercialise products developed by IFGTB scientists including bio-fertilisers and bio-boosters that help quick growth of seedlings. Currently, the ICFRE has a Prerana outlet at Dehradun.

A 'Bureau of Forest Genetic Resources' will be set up at IFGTB by upgrading the institute, Bahuguna said.

More than 1,000 farmers from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala are participating in the two-day mela.

Tree growers mela begins in Coimbatore



Farmers view different breeds of sugarcane kept on display at a stall in the Tree Growers Mela at the IFGBT premises. —DC

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, FEB. 21

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGBT) has been researching to develop clones of 15 new varieties of trees.

"Clones of eucalyptus and casuarina, which were developed a few years ago, has found its way into markets across India and have been received well. Another 15 new varieties of clones will be released in the next two years," said Mr N. Krishnakumar, director of IFGBT at the two-day Tree Growers Mela here.

Mr Krishnakumar said that of the 28,000 different varieties of trees, 145 had economic potential. "So there is a need to domesticate them for the benefit of farmers," he added.

Pointing out that econom-

The impact of urbanisation is a major concern which needs immediate attention to preserve the ever-depleting forest wealth

— N. Krishnakumar
Director, IFGBT

ic growth had its impact on natural resources, District Collector M. Karunakaran said, "There is a growing concern over tackling the garbage problem, plastic waste management and pollution of water sources.

The impact of urbanization is a major concern which needs immediate attention to preserve the ever-depleting forest wealth. There should be more awareness on protecting our natural resources," he said.

Mr Karunakaran said that as part of the afforestation drive, 64 lakh trees had been planted last year and 65 lakh would be planted this year. The collector also inaugurated an exhibition, which had stalls displaying various forest produce and saplings.

Earlier, Director General of ICFRE Mr V.K. Bahuguna unveiled the silver jubilee year commemorative stone of the IFGBT. Around 1000 farmers from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry took part in the two-day Tree Growers Mela.

30 Van Vigyan Kendras in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, FEB. 21

**Exchange of
agri practice**

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) will reach out to farmers by setting up Van Vigyan Kendras (VVKs) in 30 districts of Tamil Nadu.

"Scientists who network through these extension centres will strive towards improving the quality of farm production, develop high yielding plants and provide better technology to farmers. The VVKs will work on a similar pattern of Krishi Vigyan Kendras," said Mr V.K. Bahuguna, Director General of ICFRE during the inaugural function of Tree Growers Mela 2013 at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding in Coimbatore on Thursday.

Mr Bahuguna added that ICFRE would establish three high-quality seedling producing centres in Puducherry, TN and Kerala at a cost of ₹60 lakh. "To improve livelihood of the artisans, the ICFRE is also setting up 'Prerna Shops' in Tamil Nadu to sell eco-friendly produce as part of the 'Direct to Consumer scheme'. A similar shop, which is already in existence at Dehradun has been successful," he said.

The ICFRE is also planning to commercialise

A team of 11 farmers led by a scientist will be taken on a three-week tour to different parts of the country to adopt and exchange various agricultural practice adopted in other places

bio fertilisers and bio boosters (used for quick growth of plants) among the farmers at a project estimate of ₹25 lakh. Kissan Mela's would also be organised for the benefit to farmers.

Mr Bahuguna said that a research was underway on forest biodiversity taking into consideration different factors like climate change and hydrology. "Such a pan-India study is quintessential at a time when climate change is having drastic effects on the forests. The last study was done in 1968," he said. On its part, the IFGBT has already done a study on the forests of TN, Kerala and Andaman and submitted its results to the ICFRE. On increasing the forest cover to 33 per cent from its current 23 per cent, Mr Bahuguna said that farmers were being encouraged to grow trees in their lands.

Survey to study impact of climate change on forests

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: A second forest survey is being conducted throughout the country to study the effects of human intervention and climate change with regard to forest types. Earlier, a survey was done in 1968 which had identified 16 forest types and several sub-types.

There may have been changes with regard to this, said V K Bahuguna Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). He was speaking to reporters after attending a 'tree growers' mela' at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) in the city on Thursday.

"The survey has already been completed in Tamil Nadu, and Kerala," he said. However it will take around a year to come up with the conclusions of the study. We need 32 per cent of forest in the country but at present we have only 22 percent of forest cover. Presently, the annual value of forest products is Rs6.96 lakh crore. Thus, it becomes imperative to understand our forest resources better, he said.

They are also planning to extend many of their services to the grassroots level. Bahuguna said they would network with the Krishi Vigyan Ken-

We need 32 %of forest in the country but at present we have only 22% of forest cover. Presently, the annual value of forest products is Rs6.96 lakh crore. Thus, it becomes imperative to understand our forest resources better

dras, Vana Vigyan Kendras and various extension centres of forest departments in the districts to take the latest research developments to farmers, he said. There will be an all India tour with 11 farmers and a scientist. The group will study developments in the agricultural sector. They will exchange ideas and adopt the best technologies for themselves. This will be conducted before the monsoon.

ICFRE is planning to purchase equipment to aid farmers. They have allocated Rs 25 lakhs to purchase a harvester. A high quality seedlings centre worth Rs60lakh will be established for Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry, he said.

The Hindu 22.2.2013

Revised list of forest types to be released

Special Correspondent

COIMBATORE: A revised list of types and sub-types of forests in India is likely to be released within the next two months, said V.K. Bahuguna, Director-General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), here on Thursday.

Forest types in India were classified in 1968 by H.C. Champion and S.K. Seth and the classification had 16 types of forests with more than 200 sub-types. However, owing to the changing climate, environment conditions and monsoon pattern, the forest types had undergone changes. Hence, the ICFRE decided to revisit the forest types.

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) carried out a study on forest types and their sub-types in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar islands. Similarly, ICFRE institutions were on this job for more than a year across the country. Now, the study was nearing completion and the ICFRE had classified the forest types to 10 from 16 and the sub-types from 200 to just 43. The simplified forest types would help in easy management and also in their conservation, Mr. Bahuguna told reporters.

He also said that an All India Co-ordinated Tree Improvement Project was on the cards to ensure a sustained effort on agri-based forestry. The project is aimed at tapping and protecting the rich gene pool present in North East, Western Ghats and Himalayas. Considering the rich and valued work contributed by IFGTB, Mr. Bahuguna said the IFGTB in Coimbatore would be upgraded into a National Bureau of Forest Genetic Resources soon.