

TREE GROWERS MELA

17 September, 2021, Karthikeyan Mahal, Erode

“High Yielding Tree Varieties for Agroforestry systems”

Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree breeding, Coimbatore has been organizing Tree Growers' Mela in several strategic places in Tamil Nadu to spread awareness on tree cultivation using improved planting materials, including clones.

Last year, the mela was successfully held at Coimbatore during March 10 & 11, 2020. In continuation to the efforts, IFGTB organized Tree Growers Mela on 17th September, 2021 at Karthikeyan Mahal, Gobichettipalayam, Erode district under the theme “High Yielding Tree Varieties for Agroforestry systems”, in collaboration with ICAR KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District.

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote and accelerate the progress of research and training in various disciplines of agricultural and forestry research and education through execution of a mutually agreed Work Plan.

An MoU was signed during 26th March 2021 between IFGTB & ICAR KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Erode for establishment of new Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) at Arepalayam station of ICAR-KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

As follow up to the work plan; IFGTB in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District had organized this Tree Growers Mela, 2021 which served as an integration platform for Scientists, nursery growers, wood based industry and government agencies to equip the tree growers with the information on almost all aspects of planting of trees on farm lands. Industrial partner Seshasayee Paper Board, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Erode Circle, ICAR KVK MYRADA Gobichettupalayam and IFGTB contributed their technical inputs on wood requirement, marketing formation and demand for improved planting material of the commonly planted tree species. Overwhelmingly, 223 tree growers/farmers and SHG members from Erode district of Tamilnadu participated in the mela.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB presided over the inaugural session of the Tree Growers Mela on 17th September. Shri Arvind G. Risbud, IAS (Retd.), Executive Director, KVK MYRADA, Bangalore graced the occasion and delivered the Special address. The mela was organized and coordinated by Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Head, Extension. Dr. Alagesan, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam welcomed the guests and the gathering and presented the significance of the mela and also gave a broad outline of programme, its objective and expected outcome for the tree growers.

Shri Arvind G. Risbud, IAS (Retd.), Executive Director, KVK MYRADA, Bangalore in his address, highlighted the need for farming system for increasing farm income and safeguard farmers from agricultural distress. He also suggested that tree cultivation could pave way for new

alternative to the farmers for realizing increased productivity from the land. He immensely thanked IFGTB, Coimbatore for hosting the mela in Erode district considering its potential for growing trees in farmlands.

He also wished farmers would take up the technologies showcased by IFGTB and more specifically by adopting high quality planting material for increased productivity.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB during his presidential address emphasized that it is one of the prioritized districts having tremendous potential for trees in farm lands. Director, IFGTB also advised farmers to take up tree farming in large scale and explore the scope for the contract farming with support of wood based industries. He insisted that introduction of new technologies would lead to increase in the yield and farm income for the farmers. He further said this tree growers mela offers an excellent platform for various stakeholders to come together to address the queries of the farmers.

The theme for the Technical session - I of the mela was "High yielding tree varieties for Agro forestry systems – Erode District". Concepts on plantation technology, package of practices, and availability of improved clones for major identified species viz., Teak, Melia, Windbreak clones, Cadamba and Calophyllum was covered in this session. The technical session I was chaired by Dr. R. Yasodha, GCR, IFGTB which included; the thematic presentations on "Teak Cultivations and practices" by Dr. R. Yasodha, GCR; "Windbreak Clone based Agroforestry systems" by Dr. C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist, "Cultivation of Melia for maximizing farm income" by Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist; "Cadamba based Agroforestry systems" by Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist and Punnai - A promising tree for Agro forestry systems" by Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist.

The Technical session – II dealt on "Timber transit rules and procedures followed in Tamil Nadu".

This session was chaired by Shri. Nihar Ranjan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Erode circle wherein Shri. S. Gautam, IFS, DFO Erode briefed about the Timber transit rules and procedures. The resource persons and panel members included Industry partners and officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department; and they shared their knowledge and experience in detail and their presentation triggered the awareness regarding the tree cultivation and very importantly on necessity for adhering to procedural formalities in timber transit. Shri. Sivakumar, Executive (Tree farming) Seshasayee Paper Board (SPB) Ltd, Erode detailed their annual requirement, the market value of species and the quality of wood required for their end use.

An exclusive Exhibition was arranged for the farmers by IFGTB, Agri Entrepreneur Service Centre (AESC) ICAR KVK MYRADA, bankers, Self Help group and Seshasayee Paper Board Ltd to display various technologies in clonal forestry, package of practices recommended for major tree crops, pests and disease management in nursery and plantations. The industrial partners and KVK exhibited various technologies in tree cultivation and wood procurement in the exhibition. The participants and farmers were given free copies of the book "Mara Sagupadi, Tree Borne Oil Seeds, Biofertilisers and Biomanures and Melia" and brochures on Seed pest and management and Windbreak clones, published by IFGTB, Coimbatore. 223 participants attended

the mela including tree growers, civilsociety members, field officials of TNFD, KVKs, bankers and wood based industries.







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C. Kunhikannan (second left), Director, IFGTB, and P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, signing an MoU at Gobichettipalayam in Erode.

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IFGTB, Coimbatore & ICAR KVK MYRADA, Erode district of Tamil Nadu jointly organized a [#TreeGrowersMela](#) on 17.09.21 at Gobichettipalayam, Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

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The Mela was on the theme "High Yielding tree varieties for Agroforestry systems in Erode district" and was attended by 223 farmers, civil society members, field officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, KVKs, bankers and wood based industries.

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