

## Report on an online exclusive question-answer session on ‘Indian Sandalwood Propagation and Cultivation’ at Institute of Wood Science and Technology

(16/4 2021; 10.00am to 1.00pm)

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75) is an initiative by the Government of India to commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the embodiment of its glorious history of its people, socio-cultural, political and economic achievements. Indian Sandalwood (*Santalum album*) is one of the most important trees of India which is intricately interwoven with rich culture and heritage of India. Institute of Wood Science Technology (IWST) which is known for extensive work on Indian sandalwood is striving hard to revive the past glory of Indian Sandalwood and is taking several active steps in this direction. Under one such initiative, IWST conducted a first of its kind an online exclusive question and answer session on ‘Indian Sandalwood propagation and cultivation’. This question and answer session heralded a new beginning in reaching out to people across India through addressing various queries, issues and concerns related to the topic on Indian Sandalwood.

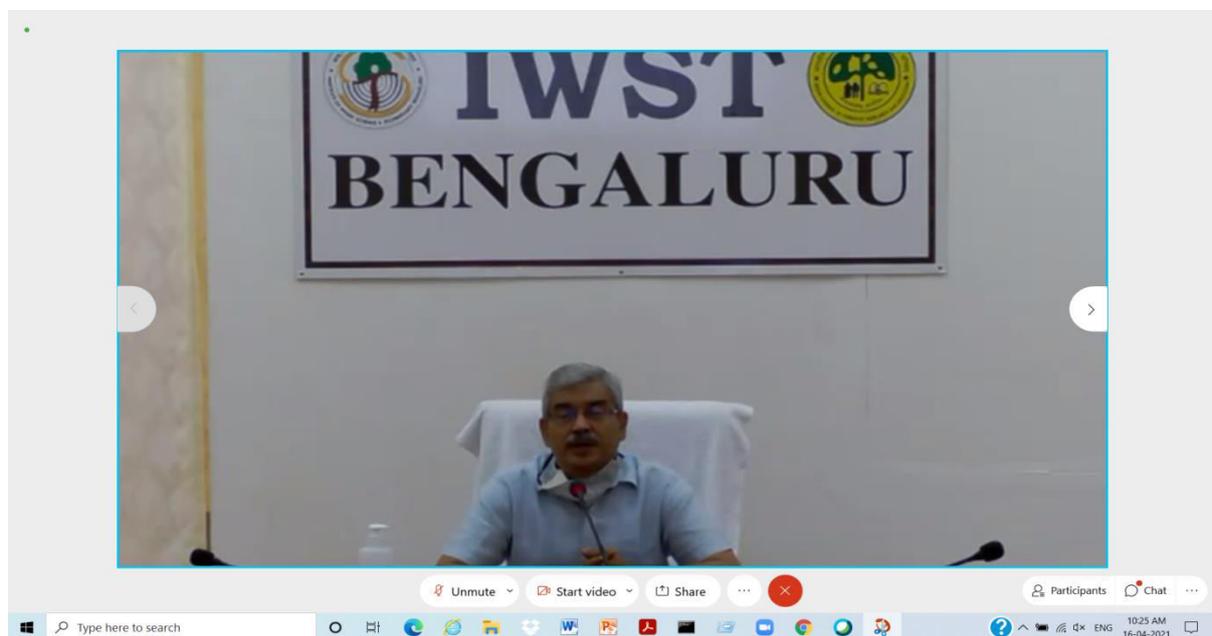
The banner features the '75' logo for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the left. The central text reads: 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV Commemorating 75 years of Indian Independence An Exclusive Open Question Answer Session on 'Indian Sandalwood Propagation and Cultivation' Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru is conducting an online exclusive question-answer session on Indian sandalwood propagation and cultivation. Date: 16/04/2021 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) Subject matter experts on Indian Sandalwood would answer queries on various aspects.' Below this, it says 'Please Register in advance' and provides a 'Weblink: <https://iwst-blr.webex.com/iwst-blr/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb8604a58108e1063ead72acfa1e705da>' and 'Event number – 184 406 9197; Event password - 123456'. The banner is decorated with images of sandalwood plants and trees, and logos of IWST and the Government of India.

This online programme had 156 registered participants from different states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab etc., comprising of farmers, sandalwood growers, students, researchers, university professors and such others.

The organiser of this event Dr. Arun Kumar A. N, Scientist-F welcomed the participants. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.P. Singh, IFS, Director, IWST. In his inaugural address, Dr. Singh emphasised the need for conducting such events and stressed the initiatives taken up by IWST on Indian sandalwood through extensive research, training and extension. He also encouraged the participants to discuss various pertinent issues related to the topic with the expert members of the IWST and reiterated that such activities will go a long way in conservation and sustained utilisation of Indian Sandalwood.

The elaborative question and answer session which lasted for nearly three hours clarified doubts of various participants on different aspects by the following expert members of the Institute - Dr. R. Sundararaj, Scientist-G and Head, FP Division ; Dr. Arun Kumar A.N., Scientist-F, SFM Division; Dr. B. N. Divakar, Scientist-E, SFM Division; Dr. T. N. Manohara, Scientist-E, SFM Division; Dr. A. Muthukumar, Scientist-E, FP Division; Dr. V. Soundararajan, Scientist-D, IT Cell; Dr. K. T. Chandrashekar, CTO, SFM Division; Dr. M.V. Durai, Scientist-C, SFM Division; Ms.Tresa Hamilton, Scientist-C, SFM Division.

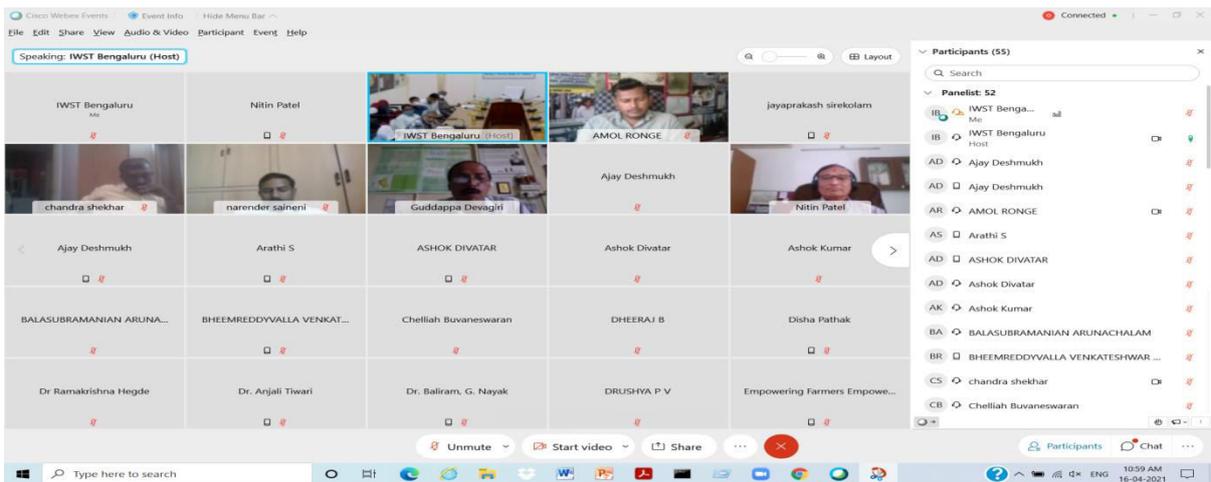
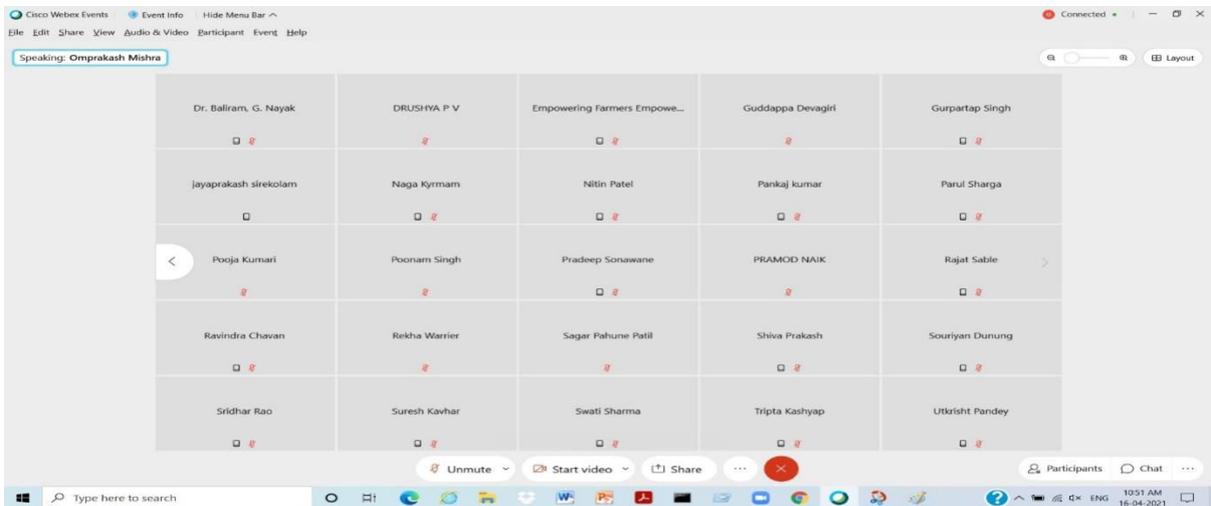
The successful session ended with vote of thanks proposed by Ms.Tresa Hamilton, Scientist-C, SFM Division.



**Dr. M. P. Singh, IFS, Director, IWST interacting with the participants during the inaugural session**



**The team of subject matter experts of IWST interacting with the participants**



**Screen shots of the interactive session**