

## **Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav**

**Theme of the training programme:** Value chain in Agro-forestry

**Name of the value chain model:** ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model

Under the *Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav* celebrations of ICFRE, 3<sup>rd</sup> week theme was given to Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur and organized one-day training programme on ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model to Women Self Help Groups at TFRI, Jabalpur. The main aim of this training programme is to increase the livelihood of the women folks and value addition for ‘Lac’ based products with assured market potential for the ‘Lac’ based products. This one-day programme on ‘‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model’ under ‘*Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav*’ was organized by Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E and Head, Silviculture, Forest Management and Agroforestry division, funded by MFP Federation, Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department.

**Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E**, welcomed the dignitaries and participants for the one-day training programme on ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model. Dr. Nanita Berry briefed about the training programme and opportunities of ‘Lac’ based agroforestry model for increase the livelihood of rural communities with minimum investments. Further, she informed that, this model will be promoted in a large scale through ‘cottage industries’ set up for higher income generation through proper training to the rural people particularly women self help groups.

One-day training programme on ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model’ was inaugurated by **Dr. G. Rajashwar Rao, Director, TFRI**. During his inaugural address, he emphasized the role of agroforestry systems in meeting the day to day needs of rural communities and improvement of livelihoods of farming communities. Also, Dr. Rao informed the gathering about the need of linking trees and agriculture, in the form of ‘agroforestry’ enables female and male farmers to generate a diversified income from the production of a variety of agricultural products and formation of cluster based approach for better marketing through value chain models. Dr. Rajashwar Rao, released a brochure in local language (Hindi) on ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model’, and information on establishment and management of model, cultivation techniques, value addition of ‘Lac’ products, etc. are dealt in detail for the benefit of the stakeholders.

During the training programme, experts explained to the beneficiaries on promoting high yielding *kusmi* ‘Lac’ cultivation on Ber and *Flemingia semialata* and establishment of primary processing center for ‘Lac’ at village level, for making ‘Lac’ handicraft products, etc., so that all the stakeholders will be benefited and leading to an overall improvement in their income and quality of life. Besides, issues such as women empowerment, environment protection, institutional pluralism, linkages with markets and sustainability were also addressed in detail.

## **Establishment and management of ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model**

**Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E**, made an elaborate presentation on establishment and management of ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model to the participants. During her presentation, she informed that, this value chain model will be beneficial for the ‘Lac’ growers especially farmers’ who are not having traditional ‘Lac’ host trees like (*B. monosperma*) or *Kusum* (*S. oleosa*) in their field bunds. In the ‘Lac’ based model, TFRI has introduced *Flemingia* plant, first time of this ‘Lac’ host species in Madhya Pradesh to maintain even by the women and within their small piece of land. In her lecture, Dr. Nanita Berry explained in detail about establishment and maintenance of ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model with agriculture crop *Cajanus cajan*. This value chain model can able to generate income as well as create rural employment throughout the year as compared to traditional farming. This *F. semialata* plants are ready to inoculate ‘Broodlac’ within a year after it’s planting and framers' can maintain this model and get ‘Lac’ up to 8 years. This model can generate an additional income upto Rs. 40,000/- per year and this additional income will continue up to 8 years, besides regular agriculture income. Training and demonstrations are most important component to popularize this model among the farmers’ especially for rural women with one time investment. Further, the hands-on training on making various products from ‘Lac’ will increase the rural women livelihood by selling of bangles @ Rs. 200 to 300 based on quantity and design. From these products, one family can earn approximately Rs. 5000-7500 per month and there is a demand for these kinds of products, mainly in urban areas.

**Value addition:** During the training programme, value addition for ‘Lac’ has been demonstrated to the participants by Shri. Pardhi, master trainer from Doolandevi & Company and his team. In the training programme, the team demonstrated about making of bangles, ear studs and brooches to the women SHGs, which are having high market potential. Also, all the participants were involved in making various ‘Lac’ based ornaments with the guidance of master trainer and his team. After the training programme, the women SHGs are showed their interests in establishment and management of *F. semialata* based ‘Lac’ based agroforestry value chain model and confident in making various ‘Lac’ based ornaments for their livelihood improvement.

**Beneficiaries of the training:** Women from different SHGs, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.



*Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Value chain in Agro-forestry*



*View of the participants from women SHGs*



Inaugural address by Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, Director, TFRI



Establishment and management of 'Lac' based agroforestry value chain model' by Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E



Lecture by master trainer Shri. Pardhi on value chain in 'Lac' based agroforestry model



Hands-on training to women SHGs on 'Lac' based products



Hands-on training to women SHGs for making various products from 'Lac'



Various products developed from 'Lac' by the women SHGs during the training programme