

## *Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsava*

### Theme

#### **“Wealth out of waste – An IFGTB initiative for tribal development”**

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has conducted one day programme on **“Wealth out of waste-An IFGTB initiative for tribal development”** with the Irular tribes in Anaikatti range of Coimbatore Forest Division on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at Kondanur (Tribal forest fringe village), Coimbatore as a celebration of **Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsava**. The programme is on to showcase the technology/product **“Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB)”** developed by IFGTB as an outcome of research activities.

**“Tree Rich Biobooster”** is a well-nourished bioproduct which can be used as a comprehensive potting mix. It has been developed by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. The usage of this product reduces nursery cost and enhances the growth performances and yield of crops. The Tree Rich Biobooster is developed using coconut fibre waste (cost effective and locally available in plenty) duly decomposed using beneficial microorganisms. The biobooster is nutrient rich,



organic, ecofriendly and cost effective, hence received overwhelming response from various stakeholders besides the market. Its demand is increasing in domestic as well as global market. Due to its market potential, IFGTB has decided to transfer the technology to improve the livelihood of the Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) of Irular tribes who wholly depend on forests for their income. In order to reduce the pressure on forests and forest produce, capacity building on this developed technology and its operationalization is expected to provide an alternate source for their income and livelihood as well and an approach to alleviate their poverty.

The programme was organised under the project **“Development of Tree Rich Biobooster using wood biomass and municipal wastes involving tribes for their livelihood support: A**



**part of Swachh Bharat Mission”** sponsored by National Geospatial Programme Division of DST (erstwhile Natural Resource Data Management System Division, DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi. A total of 150 Irular tribes in **ten Women Self Help Groups (WSGHs)** namely Sri Durgai Amman, Badrakaliamman, Paithamil, Muthamil and Nila, Ponmalaselvi, Bannariamman, Esaithendral, Thendral

and Thangatharagai residing at Kondanur, Kondanur Puthur, Kandivazhi, Panapalli and Jambukandi tribal settlements participated in the **programme. Tribes inhabiting forest fringe villages** traditionally depend on forest for their livelihood support and hence as an alternate



source of income, members of WSHGs were given capacity building on the development of Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB) from tree biomass wastes. The Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB) is a potting mixture alternate to conventional potting media for nursery, kitchen garden, terrace garden and other similar applications developed by IFGTB as an outcome of the research activities. It is a tree biomass based biobooster. The coconut fibre waste which is

the main raw material for the development of TRB is available in the surrounding areas of the hamlets. Hence, IFGTB imparted training cum capacity building on development of TRB and established market channel by which they may get alternate source of income for their livelihood. It may help them to lead descent lifestyle. The programme has been made in such a way that the tribes have to enhance their skill



through such trainings to become entrepreneur and to generate their own source of income. A detailed demonstration was given to the tribes on compost making out of municipal wastes especially flower waste, vegetable waste, tea wastes and other wastes which is one of the components in the development of TRB product. Various aspects of the development of the bioproduct “**Tree Rich Biobooster**” which included selection of raw materials, processing, compost making, preparation of blocks, and evaluation of their efficacy were demonstrated in detail with all necessary materials.



The consumers of this product are farmers, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations and plantation companies who may benefit through increased productivity.