



Potential of Sandalwood Cultivation in Himachal Pradesh

The Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized Amrit Mahotsav Programme on 10th Novemeber, 2021 in the Conference Hall of the Institute. The main objective of programe was to deliberate upon the possibilities of Sandalwood Cultivation in Himachal Pradesh. In this program 80 participants including Scientists, Officers and Research Scholars of the Institute participated and employees posted in various Field Research Stations of the Institute participated through virtual mode. At the outset Dr. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-F & Head, Extension Division welcomed the Director, HFRI Shimla, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Shyam Viswanathan, Director, Kerala Forest Institute, Thirsur, Kerala and all the participants. He briefed about the background of AzadiKaAmirtMahotasav and highlighted the significance of *Santum album* in reference to Indian Mythology, Scripture and Folklore. Dr. S.S. Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla during his Inaugural Address briefed about the taxonomy, ecological and economic importance of *Santalum album*. He said that keeping in view of the suitable agro-climatic conditions in lower and mid high hill zones of Himachal Pradesh, there is ample scope of its cultivation. Dr. Viswanathan, Director, KFRI gave detailed presentation on “Nursery, Propagation Technique & Plantation Establishment of *Santalum album* (Sandalwood). Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist- G and Group Coordinator Research, talked about the possibilities of growing Sandalwood in Himachal Pradesh. He shared his experience of growing Sandalwood at TFRI, Jabalpur. At the end, the participants freely interacted and all the query were satisfied with Expert opinion of Resource Persons.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Joginder Chauhan, Chief Technical Officer.

