

TREE GROWERS MELA

24thSeptember, 2022, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District

Theme: Tree Cultivation technologies for rainfed areas

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. Since 2010 to till date, the mela was successfully conducted at Coimbatore, Trichy, Thindivanam, Killikulam, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Jayankondam&Gobichettipalayam. In continuation to the efforts, IFGTB organized a Tree Growers Mela on 24thSeptember, 2022 at Karaikudi, Sivagangai district,with support from CAMPA under the theme “Tree Cultivation technologies for rainfed areas”, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur.

Tree Growers Mela, 2022which served as an integration platform for Scientists, nursery growers, wood based industries and government agencies to equip the tree growers with the information on almost all aspects of growing trees on farm lands. With IFGTB, Industrial partner Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Sivagangai Circle, TANUVAS KVK, Kundrakudi and TAF CORN contributed their technical inputs on wood requirement, market information and demand for improved planting material of the commonly planted tree species under rainfed areas. Overwhelmingly, 502 tree growers/farmers from Sivagangai, Pudukottai and Trichy district of Tamil Nadu participated in the mela.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB presided over the inaugural session of the Tree Growers Mela on 24thSeptember. Shri G. Ravi, Assistant General Manager (Plantations), TNPL, Karur, Shri. M. Malarkandan, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Sivagangai district, Dr. T. Selvaraj, Associate Professor, KVK Kundrakudi graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The mela was organized by Extension division of IFGTB, headed by Dr. S.Saravanan, Scientist &Head, Extension. He welcomed the guests and the gathering and Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO presented the significance of the theme and also gave a broad outline of programme, its objective and expected outcome for the tree growers.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB during his presidential address emphasized the need for tree farming system for increasing farm income. He also suggested that tree cultivation could pave way for new alternative to the farmers for realizing increased productivity from the land. He also wished farmers would take up the new technologies

and high yielding clones/varieties showcased by IFGTB and more specifically by adopting high quality planting material for increased productivity.

Shri. G.Ravi, Assistant General Manager, TNPL, Karur highlighted the significance of Tree Growers Mela in promoting scientific knowledge to the tree growers or farmers for taking up commercial tree cultivation in farm lands. He also stressed the current demand for pulp wood in National and regional level and highlighted the continuous increasing demand for pulp wood. Shri. Malarkandan, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Sivagangai district stressed the importance of various schemes via., TCPL, TBGP schemes of Tamil Nadu Forest Department and clarified the timber transit provisions currently prevailing in Tamil Nadu for transportation of scheduled timber species. Shri. Selvaraj, Associate Professor, KVK Kundrakudi during his address emphasized that Sivagangai one of the prioritized district having tremendous potential for trees in farm lands and suggested the farmers to make use of this Tree Growers Mela.

The Director, IFGTB released a book '**Maram valarpu mulam Makathana Varumanam**' (Tamil) during the Tree Growers Mela. This book published by IFGTB deals with Tree Cultivation practices of selected and prioritized species for Tamil Nadu. The **iOS Platform of 'TreeGenie Mobile App'** - digital interactive platform developed by IFGTB for tree growers were also released during the program.

Eight technical sessions were included in the thematic presentations. These sessions focused on the need for choosing appropriate tree species, improved planting / clonal material and package of practices for increased production and higher financial returns & on possibilities of better wood marketing. They are as follows

Resource persons	Presentation Theme
Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist	Cultivation practices of Casuarina clones
Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist	Cultivation practices of Eucalyptus clones
Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist	Casuarina & Teak based Agro forestry
Shri.Sikkandar Basha	Cultivation of Red Sanders & Timber Transit Rules
Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist	Cultivation of Tissue Culture Teak & Tamarind
Dr. S. P. Subramani, CTO	Cultivation of Mahogany
Shri. G. Ravi, AGM, TNPL	Pulpwood procurement policy
Dr. T. Selvaraj, Associate Professor Professor & Head, KVK, Kundrakudi	Integrated farming system

The resource persons and panel members from IFGTB, TNPL, officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department and KVK Sivagangai district shared their knowledge and experience in detail. Their presentation triggered the interest on tree cultivation and very importantly on necessity for adhering to procedural formalities in timber transit.

An exclusive Exhibition was arranged for the farmers by IFGTB to display various technologies in clonal forestry, package of practices recommended for major tree crops, in nursery and plantations. The exhibition also promoted popularization of the *Mobile App “TreeGenie” – digital interactive platform for tree growers developed by IFGTB*. An exclusive registration counter was enabled for enrolling more tree growers to use and benefit from the *TreeGenie* mobile application. The industrial partner TNPL, Karur exhibited various technologies in tree cultivation and wood procurement in the exhibition. The participants and farmers were given free copies of the book **Maram valarpu mulam Makathana Varumanam’**” and publications on Gmelina, Pest & Disease management& Tree Growers Mela brochure published by IFGTB, Coimbatore. Farmers / Tree Growers interacted with the experts and clarified their doubts on different aspects of growing, protection, irrigation required, marketing, restrictions by Forest Department etc.,

DIRECTOR
IFGTB

<p>Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB during his inaugural address</p>	<p>Dr.S.Saravanan, Head, Extension during his address</p>



New Release -Book on “Tree Cultivation of important Tree species”(Tamil)



New Release – “TreeGenie iOS” Mobile application



Subject Experts during the Technical session



Subject Experts during the Technical session



Registration Counter



Exhibition of IFGTB technologies & products



Farmers interaction during the panel discussion



Participants