VISIT OF TRAINEE FORESTERS FROM ANDAMAN

Twenty one Forester Trainees of 51st Batch from Forest Training Institute, Wimberlygunj, South Andaman along with its three Officials visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat (Assam) on 24 February, 2023. Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division welcomed the team. He delivered a presentation encompassing different research and development activities of the Institute. He sensitized the Trainees on bamboo, its propagation and cultivation practices, various utilizations of bamboo such as bamboo shoot processing and value addition, bamboo charcoal, bamboo preservation treatment, bamboo handicrafts etc, lac cultivation and its manifold applications, broom grass and its economics uses etc.

Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, the Ex-Director of RFRI, Jorhat (Assam) and the PCCF(Rtd), Andaman also addressed the team. He explained the importance Agar tree in livelihood generation, geographical distribution of Agar trees, nursery and cultivation practices. He also sensitized the team on artificial inoculation of Agar tees for oil induction. He delivered a presentation of Agar tree (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) and apprised about the possibility of introducing Agar trees in non-forest areas of Andaman.

The team visited Bamboo Nursery, Bambusetum, Bamboo Composite Centre, Vermicomposting Unit, Bamboo Charcoal Unit and Bamboo Preservation Treatment unit. Shri R. Bhattacharyya, Technical Officer apprised the team about various work done on Vermicomposting. Shri Debojit Neog, Technical Officer demonstrated bamboo propagation techniques to the team and showed various bamboo species present at RFRI Bambusetum. Shri Bibhuti Deka, Assistant Chief Technical Officer, Shri N. C. Das, Technical Officer, and Shri Bhuban Kachari, Technical Officer, guided the Team during the field visit and updated latest developments in the field of forestry.

GLIMPSES OF THE VISIT OF TRAINEES