



VVK

INSTITUTE OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY (IFB), HYDERABAD

February 23, 2023

A report of Training on “Sandalwood Cultivation & Management Techniques” on 23rd February, 2023 at VVK-Centre, FCRI, Mulugu, Telangana.

Sandalwood (*Santalum album* Linn) is one of the tree species planted by farmers in both Telangana & Andhra Pradesh for land rehabilitation and reforestation objectives. As a commercial tree species, propagation effort has to be carried out. Practical propagation efforts involving communities are made through capacity-building activities to cultivate Sandalwood. Capacity building is done through training which enables communities to enhance their technical capacity in Sandalwood cultivation. Therefore, capacity building through training on planning, silviculture, and Sandalwood utilization is crucial to be done. The target group is farmers. After completion of training, farmers are expected to be able to apply training outcomes collectively and they will become examples for other farmers.

Keeping this in view, as a part of extension activity, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Hyderabad organized a VVK training program on “**Sandalwood Cultivation & Management Techniques**” for farmers and tree growers at VVK-Centre, Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), Mulugu, Telangana on 23rd February 2023 under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) networking. About 26 farmers (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh), officials, and media participated in the training program.

Dr. Deepa M., Scientist-D, Head Ecology, and DDO, IFB delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the importance of Sandalwood, Plantation techniques, and promotion of agroforestry species cultivation in farmlands. She also welcomed the farmers, dignitaries, and media partners and provided an overview of the training schedule.

Shri A. Venkateshwarlu, Deputy Director, FCRI, Mulugu delivered the Welcome address. This was followed by the speech by Dr. M. Chiranjeeva Reddy, Assistant Professor & Nodal Officer, VVK, FCRI, Mulugu

& Ms. P. Nikitha, Assistant Professor, Agriculture Extension Officer. Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, Technician, IFB hosted the Training program.

The program continued with a presentation by Shri A. Venkateshwarlu, Deputy Director, FCRI, Mulugu, who made a presentation on “Nursery & Cultivation Practices for *Santalum album* (Sandalwood) based Agroforestry Systems”. He expressed his views and shared knowledge with participants on Sandalwood practices in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Sandal phenology, distribution & ecology, Plus trees selection, Nursery management, Sandal based agroforestry systems, Suitable secondary host plants, Financial analysis, Policy constraints, Current rules in extraction & marketing, Sandalwood plantations in Telangana and management, etc.

Later, Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, Technician, ICFRE-IFB, made a presentation on “Sandalwood farming in India: Problems & Prospects”. He expressed his views and shared knowledge with participants on Sandalwood history, Distribution, Habit & habitat, Sandalwood products & uses, Production and price trends, Classifications, Dressing & processing, Sandalwood grades, Host plants, Haustorial connections, Plantation & pruning techniques, Sandalwood agroforestry demo plots, Economics of sandalwood, Financial analysis and case studies, Tree protection measures, Key issues in sandalwood cultivation, etc.

A nursery visit was arranged by Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, TC, Shri A. Sasidhar, TC & Shri D.S.S. Prasad, TC, at the FCRI campus after the lecture sessions. During the nursery visit, the farmers were explained about the nursery techniques of Sandalwood, Primary host plants, Disease & Pest management in sandalwood nursery, etc.

Participants were highly attentive throughout the training period and readily raised questions and sought clarifications. Some of the topics kindled their interest and were curious in knowing about the modern techniques of cultivation, nursery and plantation techniques, pest control mechanisms and marketing issues, etc. During the feedback session, the participants expressed the need for such training on a future regular basis. They were of the opinion that such specific training would help in implementing field activities by scheduling actions for land preparation, raising and maintenance of nurseries, and plantation maintenance. Certificates were distributed to all participants after the successful completion of training. The one-day training came to conclusion with closing remarks by Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE-IFB.

Glimpses of the Training Programme



