



REPORT

ONE DAY TRAINING PROGRAM ON

“CASURINA WINDBREAK CLONES FOR PROTECTION OF BANANA CROP & POPULARISATION OF TREEGENIE MOBILE APP”

28.06.2023

AN EVENT OF VAN VIGYAN KENDRA, COIMBATORE

ICFRE - INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE&ICAR KVK SIRUGAMANI, TRICHY

Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Coimbatore of IFGTB in collaboration with ICAR KVK Sirugamani, Trichy organized one day program on Casuarina Windbreak clones for protection of Banana crops & popularization of TreeGenie mobile app on 28.06.2023.

Wind damage to crops is a perennial problem and loss to the farmers who never insure their crop is running into crores. ICFRE -IFGTB, Coimbatore had released five superior clones (WBC-1, WBC-2, WBC-3, WBC-4 and WBC-5) of *Casuarina junghuhniana* for providing protection against windstorms to horticultural and agricultural crops. The developed productive clones of Casuarina exclusively suitable for windbreak which have more number of branches, wider branch angle along with greater growth rate suitable for windbreak. IFGTB's Casuarina windbreak tree varieties planted on the periphery of farm lands had shown great promise to slow down the speed of wind and minimize the damage to cash crops.

In this background, the institute has organised one day training on 28.06.23 for catering to the needs for the banana growers in Trichy and its clusters areas. This one day training was organised for *Banana growers on the theme* “Casuarina Windbreak clones for protection of Banana crops & popularization of TreeGenie mobile app” as part of extension activity under the Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK),

Coimbatore in collaboration with ICAR KVK Sirugamani, Trichy. A total of 67 participated in the program.

In the inaugural session, Dr. Eswaran, Professor, KVK Sirugamani, Trichy welcomed the gathering and briefed the significance of the program. Dr. P. Murali Arthanari, Head & Program Co-ordinator, KVK, Sirugamani, delivered the special address and assured to host more activities jointly by both the organizations to strengthen the dissemination of technologies to various stakeholders.

The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. P. P. Murugan, Director Extension Education, TNAU wherein he welcomed the idea of networking with IFGTB for jointly organizing the training and also emphasised the need of VVKs and KVKs working together, blending forestry and agriculture and magnifying the dissemination of technologies to various stakeholders.

IFGTB brochures on "*Windbreak Tree Varieties*" & Publications of IFGTB were distributed among the participants during the program.

Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist & Head, Extension division, IFGTB handled the technical session on "***Casuarina Windbreak clones***". He showcased the technology of windbreak clones and clones released by IFGTB to the banana growers. He explained the design, package of practices and economics of the plantation model. He also explained to the participants on the establishment, post planting care and advantages of the windbreak clones. During the open house discussion the farmers raised their queries which were addressed by the beneficiary farmers and by Dr. S. Saravanan.

Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO conducted the session on "***TREEGENIE – Interactive Digital platform of IFGTB***" for the mobile app popularisation wherein, he explained that TreeGenie is the digital platform developed by ICFRE-IFGTB connecting all the stakeholders in a common platform and serving the stakeholders' needs, like information on tree growers, quality planting material (QPM) propagators and nurseries growers, research institutions / scientists, state forest departments and wood-based industry and traders. He explained the key functionalities of the TreeGenie Mobile Application, its uses and installation procedures.

The program ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr.Nithila, SMS, KVK Sirugamani,Trichy.

Director
IFGTB



Special address by Dr. Dr.P.MuraliArthanari, Head & Program Co-ordinator, KVK, Sirugamani

Dr.P.P.Murugan, Director Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore



Participants Registration

Distribution of reading materials



Banana growers of Trichy attending the training



Dr. S.Saravanan, Scientist, presenting in the technical session on Casuarina Windbreak clones



Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO, presenting the features of TreeGenie Mobile App



Farmers queries regarding the Windbreak clones

Shri.A.Subramanian Director, TamilNadu Banana Producer Co Ltd(FPO) during the program