



VVK

ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY (IFB), HYDERABAD

A Report on “Red Sanders Cultivation Techniques” under VVK

Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus* L.) is an endangered tree species that is highly valued for its heartwood. Both anthropogenic and abiotic factors have led to the fragmentation and degradation of the Red sanders habitat. The tree is endemic to several districts in Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states.

Keeping in view, the availability of expertise on red sanders cultivation, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity (ICFRE-IFB), Hyderabad organized a training program on “*Red sanders Cultivation Techniques*” for Trainee foresters at the Extension building, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad on 23rd June, 2023 under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) networking. About 35 Trainee foresters (Section Officers & FROs) from TSFA, Hyderabad participated in the training program.

The Training program started with the welcome address by Dr. Kavi Sidhrathan, Sc-B, ICFRE- IFB, who welcomed the Trainee foresters and provided an overview of the training schedule. Shri. E. Manikanta Reddy, Technician, IFB hosted the Training program.

Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, IFB delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the importance of Red sanders, nursery & plantation techniques and departmental permissions, etc.

The program continued with a presentation by Dr. S. Pattanaik, Sc-G & GCR, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad on “*Red Sanders Cultivation Techniques*”. He expressed his views and shared knowledge with participants on the Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus* L.) description, Taxonomy & uses of Red sanders, Economics of Red sanders, Natural distribution, Climate and soil requirements of Red sanders, Heartwood Formation-Effect of soil & climatic factors, Raising of Red sanders seedlings and clones in Nursery, Field planting practices for Red sanders, Yield

management, Indian legislations on felling & transit of Red sanders, International treaty/convention on Red sanders- IUCN Red list, Quality of plantation grown wood vis-à-vis natural wood, etc.

Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, TC & Shri M. Sagar, TC, ICFRE-IFB, made a presentation on “Identification of Red sanders and Bijasal seedlings in the nursery using morphological features”. They shared their knowledge with participants about the seedling and seed morphology of Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus* L.) & Bijasal (*Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxburgh) to distinguish both the species.

Further, Dr. Kavi Sidharthan, Sc-B, G&TI Division, ICFRE-IFB made a presentation on “An important wood boring insect pest in Red sanders: Identification & Management Measures”. He enlightened the participants about identification of *Xylotrechus smei* and infested trees with peculiar symptoms. He also threw light on the general management methods for the insect pest.

A field visit was organized with the help of Shri A. Kishore, TA, Shri M. Sagar, TC, Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, TC & Shri A. Sasidhar, TC at the ICFRE-IFB campus after the lecture sessions. During the visit, foresters got acquaintance with Red sander & Bijasal species identification, Nursery techniques of Red sanders, visited red sanders research plot and Vegetative Multiplication Garden. Participants were highly attentive throughout the training period and readily raised questions and sought clarifications. Some of the topics kindled their interest and they were curious in knowing about the Red sanders, cultivation and plantation techniques, Red sanders nursery techniques, Red sanders & Bijasal morphological differences, Wood boring insect pest in Red sanders, prevailing legislations on felling & transit of Red sanders, marketing issues, etc. During the feedback session, the participants expressed the need for such training in future on a regular basis. Certificates were distributed to all participants after the successful completion of training. The one-day training ended with vote of thanks by Shri E. Manikanta Reddy.

Glimpses of the Training Programme



