

### **MoU signing ceremony at ICFRE-IFGTB on 30 November 2023**

The ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organised a MoU signing ceremony on 30 November 2023. Dr. J.P. Jacob, Scientist-G, welcoming the gathering, stated that the standardised mass multiplication protocol for teak of the institute had been transferred to five commercial laboratories during 2021, of which three have shown good progress and are supplying teak plants for planting on a large scale. Dr. R.Yasodha, Group Co-ordinator (Research), in her opening remarks, stated that since its inception in 1988, ICFRE-IFGTB is progressing towards the mandatory goal of bringing the superior variety of tree species generated through tree improvement programmes to common public through licencing to private industries for large scale multiplication of teak on a royalty basis. MoUs were then signed between ICFRE-IFGTB and the following commercial tissue culture laboratories, represented by their proprietors.

1. Devleela Biotech Raipur-Shri Rajendra Surana.
2. HiFi Biotech Pvt Ltd, Salem-Dr. Murugesu Boopathi
3. Sree Adithya Biotech, Bengaluru-Shri Narasiman and Smt. K. Mahalakshmi

The Institute also entered into an MoU with Yuvakshethra Institute of Management Studies (YIMS), Mundur, Kerala, to collaborate on research related to the chemistry of natural products and GIS. Dr. Joseph, Vice Principal, Dr. P. Reneela, and Dr Rahul from YIMS were present.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, the Director ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore, detailed the institute's expectations from the commercial labs. He informed that the demand for quality teak plants from farmers and the forest departments has been rising. With three more laboratories coming forward to take up the task, the demand can be met to a large extent. He pointed out that the institute's clones with the prescribed protocols should be adopted in all earnest to ensure the production of quality plants. He assured them that the Institute would provide support to ensure the success of the collaboration. The MoU signed with YIMS focuses on research collaboration, encourages students to take up projects, and ensures customised training opportunities. The signatories assured of their full co-operation to achieve the goal of the MoU. Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist-F, Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-F, Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist-E and Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist-D were present. The ceremony ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist-F.



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB-ICFRE addressing the gathering



ICFRE-IFGTB signing MoU with Devleela Biotech, Raipur



ICFRE-IFGTB signing MoU with HiFi Biotech Pvt Ltd, Salem



ICFRE-IFGTB signing MoU with Sree Adithya Biotech, Bengaluru



ICFRE-IFGTB providing the tissue culture teak to Sree Adithya Biotech, Bengaluru



MoU signatories