



ICFRE-Institute of forest biodiversity, Hyderabad

A report on High-yielding interspecific hybrid clones of *Casuarina* under VVK



ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity (ICFRE-IFB), Hyderabad organized a one-day training program on “**High-yielding interspecific hybrid clones of *Casuarina***” for Trainee foresters at ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad on 31st January 2024 under Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK). About 16 Trainee foresters (Section Officers) from Telangana State Forest Academy (TSFA), Hyderabad participated in the training program.

The Training program started with the welcome address by Shri Ch. Srinivas, ICFRE-IFB, who welcomed the gathering. The program continued with a brief overview by **Dr. Kavi Sidhrathan, Scientist-B**, followed by screening of the video documentary “Holding the sky: The *Casuarina* story” and distribution of pamphlets on “*Casuarina* Cultivation: New Varieties and Cultivation Techniques” (Telugu and English). Further, **Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE-IFB** delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the importance of High-yielding interspecific hybrid clones of *Casuarina* developed by ICFRE-IFGTB & their superior performance in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

Later, **Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist -G, ICFRE-IFGTB** made a presentation (online mode) on “New Varieties and Planting Techniques to increase Wood Production in *Casuarina* Plantations”. He enlightened the participants about various varieties developed by ICFRE-IFGTB and their cultivation practices including nutrient, weed, pest/disease and irrigation management, harvest and marketing for maximizing the grower’s income. The talk was followed by an interaction session wherein the queries raised by the trainees were clarified.

Dr. Kavi Sidhrathan, Scientist-B and AICRP 1 team made a presentation on the performance of *Casuarina* hybrid clones in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh. They highlighted the superior performance of CH5, CH3 and CH2 clones in Telangana, and their cultivation practices.

A field visit was organized with the help of Shri G. Kiran, TC, Shri A. Sasidhar, TC and L. Vijay Prakash Reddy, JPF (AICRP 1) at the ICFRE-IFB campus after the lecture sessions. During the visit to AICRP 1 clonal trail plot, foresters got acquainted with the superior performance of *Casuarina* hybrid clones in comparison with performance of *C. equisetifolia* and *C. junghuhniana* seed sources. Clonal propagation technique of *Casuarina* was demonstrated to the trainees. Participants were highly attentive throughout the training period and raised questions and sought clarifications. Some of the trainees requested Director, ICFRE-IFB for conducting future training sessions on Plant Tissue Culture & Soil moisture conservation.

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 a vote of thanks by **Shri M.B. Honnuri, Sci-C, ICFRE-IFB**.

Glimpses of the Program





Inaugural session (A - D), lectures by Dr. A. Nicodemus, Sc-G, IFGTB (E) and AICRP 1 team (F), field visit (G-H), demonstration of *Casuarina* clonal propagation (I-J) and valedictory session (K-L)