



**TRAINING**  
**ON**  
**QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION IN NURSERY**  
**ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING**  
**(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**  
**TIRUNELVELI**

Training on Quality Planting Material Production in Nursery (QPM) for Forest Range Officers, Foresters, and Forest Guards of Tirunelveli circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department was organized by ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore as a part of the UK-Darwin Initiative. The event took place on March 26, 2024, at the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai. Thirty-one forest officials from various regions of Tirunelveli participated in this enlightening QPM training. Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist and training in-charge at ICFRE-IFGTB, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests and participants, underscoring the paramount importance of the training program. He outlined the objectives of the Quality Planting Material (QPM) Production in Nursery, providing a comprehensive overview that set the stage for the forthcoming sessions.

Dr. P. Arul Arasu, Associate Professor/SMS (Horticulture) at ICAR-KVK, delivered a Special Address during the training session. He expressed gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing the training at KVK, emphasizing its potential to benefit forest department staff in producing Quality Planting Material (QPM) not only for forestry but also for horticultural crops. Dr. Arasu assured attendees that the training would equip them with the essential technical knowledge needed to produce QPM for both forest and horticultural species. His remarks highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the training and its broader implications for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.

Ms. R. Padmawathe, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Southern Circle, TNFD, Madurai inaugurated the training program. During her inaugural address, Ms. R. Padmawathe emphasized the importance of Quality Planting Material (QPM). She elaborated on how the production of plastic chairs contributes to environmental pollution and proposed the use of wooden chairs as an eco-friendly alternative. Ms. Padmawathe urged TNFD staff to apply the knowledge gained from the training in nursery practices, emphasizing the importance of practical implementation. She expressed gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such an invaluable training session for TNFD staff, acknowledging its significant contribution to their professional development and environmental stewardship.

### **Technical session**

The resource persons of ICFRE-IFGTB made presentation on different topics as detailed below:

1. **Basics on need for QPM in forestry** - Shri A. Mayavel
2. **Identification of source of planting material** - Dr T. Vamadevan
3. **Good Practices of Fruit Collection, Seed Extraction and Storage** - Mr Suresh Kumar
4. **Vegetative propagation** - Mr R. Velumani
5. **Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock** - Dr. S. Vigneswaran
6. **Nursery pest and disease control**- Mr C. Rajesh
7. **Demonstration on seed testing and vegetative propagation** – Dr M. Ananthan, Professor & Head, AC & RI, Madurai and Dr P. Arul Arasu, Associate Professor/SMS (Horticulture)

The experts from ICFRE-IFGTB shared their wealth of knowledge and expertise generously during the training session, providing valuable insights into the current status and essential requirements of Quality Planting Material (QPM). Alongside informative presentations, the participants benefited from hands-on training sessions covering a wide array of topics, including seed testing, germination, and vegetative propagation techniques. Additionally, resource persons from TNAU enriched the program by sharing their expertise in seed testing and vegetative production specific to horticultural crops.

These interactive sessions allowed department staff to actively engage and gain practical experience in crucial aspects of QPM production. Through direct participation, attendees not only deepened their understanding but also acquired valuable skills that they could immediately

apply in their work. This practical, hands-on approach significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the training, empowering participants with the necessary tools to excel in their roles within the forestry and horticulture sectors.

### **Feedback session & Valedictory**

During the feedback session, participants expressed a strong desire for more hands-on training, emphasizing its critical role in enhancing their skill development, especially at the ground level, which would greatly benefit the production of Quality Planting Material (QPM). They conveyed sincere appreciation to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such valuable training, acknowledging its pivotal role in shaping future QPM production efforts.

Dr. M. Ananthan, Professor & Head of AC & RI, Madurai, lauded the forest officials for their active engagement and pledged to incorporate such training sessions as a regular feature. In recognition of their participation, certificates were presented to the trainees by Dr. M. Ananthan and Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist at ICFRE-IFGTB. Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer at ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing profound gratitude to the UK-Darwin Initiative for their generous financial support.

Moreover, the feedback session served as a platform for participants to offer suggestions for future training programs, ensuring ongoing improvement and relevance to their needs in the field. This collaborative exchange fosters a culture of continuous learning and development within the forestry community, ultimately contributing to more effective and sustainable forest management practices.



Ms. R. Padmawathe, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Southern Circle, TNFD, Madurai, inaugurated the training programme



Special address by Dr. P. Arul Arasu, Associate Professor/SMS (Horticulture) ICAR-KVK Madurai



Presentation on Basics on need for QPM in forestry - Shri A. Mayavel



Presentation on Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock - Dr. S. Vigneswaran



Hands-on training on Vegetative Propagation



Honored ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai



**Dr M. Ananthan, Professor & Head, AC & RI, Madurai, awarded the Certificates trainees**



**Group photo**