

Visit of Forest Range Officers (trainees), Odisha State Forest Department

to ICFRE-IFGTB on 14.09.2024

ICFRE-IFGTB organized a one day exposure visit to the Forest Range Officers (trainees) of Odisha State Forest Department on 14.09.2024 to the institute. A total of 45 FRO trainees participated in the exposure visit. Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-F & Head, Extension gave an overview of the research and extension activities of the institute. He highlighted about the clonal releases made by the institute, TreeGenie App, Pest calendar, role of VVK, VVK-KVK networking, TGM and other extension strategies.



The trainees visited the FGR lab and Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist-G explained about FGR, tree species prioritized under FGR, scoring sheet for selection under FGR category, different conservation strategies including *in-situ* and *ex-situ* strategies for different tree species. She also explained about field Gene Bank and its role in future breeding and research activities. Trainees visited seed lab and observed the seed X-Ray unit, different germination tests, seed ball technology, etc.



Later, the trainees visited clonal nursery, where, Dr. S. Saravanan and Shri Velumani, T. O explained about the Vegetative Multiplication Garden – establishment and maintenance, method of making cuttings for mass production, etc.

The trainees were given hands on training viz., taking of cuttings from *Casuarina*, *Eucalyptus*, *Melia*, *cadamba*, etc. for mass multiplication through vegetative propagation techniques. They also visited mother bed chamber, mini poly tent, hardening chamber, etc.

