



STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP on

‘All India Coordinated Research Projects and Forest Genetic Resource Management’

24th -25th July 2025

Organized by

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore

The Stakeholders Workshop on All India Coordinated Research Projects and Forest Genetic Resource Management was organized by the ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore during 24-25th July, 2025. This event brought together stakeholders from across the country viz, State Forest Departments, Tree Growers, Industries and Farmers. The workshop was held in a hybrid mode. The inaugural session was presided over by Smt. Kanchan Devi, IFS, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun who joined virtually. Shri. Sewa Singh, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore was the Guest of honour. Dr. Geetha Joshi, ADG (Media and Extension), ICFRE joined the workshop in offline mode.

Inaugural Session:

Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist G, extended a warm welcome to all the participants followed by lighting of lamp. Dr. R. Yasodha, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, extended a warm welcome to all the invited speakers and participants attending the workshop. In her address she gave an overview of the AICRP and FGR projects implemented in the Institute. She highlighted the accomplishments and contributions made by the AICRP and NPFGR projects that led to

publications in esteemed journals and introduced cutting-edge machinery and infrastructure, and the dissemination of findings to various stakeholders.

Dr. Geetha Joshi, ADG (Media and Extension), ICFRE, emphasized the significance of the workshop as a platform for interaction among researchers and stakeholders. She gave an in-depth explanation of the AICRP and NPFGR, highlighting the interactions among the diverse array of stakeholders. Furthermore, she discussed the Casuarina clones, innovative micropropagation techniques in Teak tissue culture, the domestication and development of a new Tamarind clone, non-destructive genomic studies on Sandalwood, as well as the development of biofertilizers and biopesticides. Notably, she pointed out that the seedbank established by FGR plays a crucial role in long-term genetic conservation and tree improvement. In conclusion, she stated that the extension of these projects contributes to capacity building, promotes collaborative research, and enhances ecosystem resilience.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, DDG (Research), ICFRE, delivered the special address by providing a comprehensive overview of the workshop which would serve as a platform for dissemination of findings to stakeholders. He discussed the constraints encountered by the projects throughout the pandemic. He addressed the potential for further extension of the projects into second phase and the attainment of long-term objectives and productivity within the forestry sector.

In his address, Shri. Sewa Singh, IFS, PCCF & Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore, shared his thoughts on project formulations in response to the increasing demand for quality timber and a sustainable future. He addressed the issues of global warming and climate change, highlighting how these initiatives serve as remedial measures for these challenges. To encourage natural afforestation and a bright future, stakeholders have been informed about the use of clones, tissue culture techniques, and the advancement of biopesticides. He promised that the State Forest Department will support this endeavor.

Dr. Kanchan Devi, IFS, Director General, ICFRE, inaugurated the workshop and delivered an inaugural address and outlined the project's goal of bringing together India's top forestry experts. She conveyed her appreciations to all individuals involved in the project. Furthermore, she elaborated on the initiatives that extend to the grassroots level, engaging the stakeholders and described the resilience attained through these projects, highlighting drought tolerance, disease resistance, and genetic integrity.

The products developed under the different projects were released during the workshop. Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Scientist-G, ICFRE-IFGTB along with his team, published a pamphlet focused on enhancing growth through biofertilizers in *Santalum album* and also launched the *Bio reclaimer*, a microbial consortium designed for stress-prone environments. Dr. Anandalakshmi, Scientist-G, ICFRE-IFGTB and her team distributed 20 brochures covering various tree species, seed handling practices, and nursery techniques. Furthermore, Dr. Diwakara and his team from ICFRE-IWST, Bengaluru released booklets and pamphlets addressing topics such as heartwood resistivity tomography, tissue culture protocols, essential oil estimation, and pest and disease management.

The inaugural session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-G.

Technical session:

During the technical session, seven All India Co-ordinated Research Projects and one project on Forest Genetic Resource Management were presented by the National Project Co-ordinators.

1. AICRP-1 on 'Testing and Deployment of Clones and Seed Sources of Casuarina for Different Planting Environments and End-use'

NPC: Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist-G

2. AICRP-4 on 'Eucalyptus Improvement'

NPC: Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist-G

3. AICRP-3 on 'Conservation, Improvement, Management and Promotion of Sandalwood (*Santalum album* Linn.) cultivation in India'

NPC: Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-G

4. AICRP-9 'Quality Teak Production: Capitalizing on Cloning'

NPC: Dr. R. Yasodha, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB

5. National Program for Conservation and Development of Forest Genetic Resource

NPC: Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist-G

6. AICRP-20 'Bio-pesticides'

NPC: Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist-G

7. AICRP-21 'Development of Superior Biofertilizers for enhanced plant productivity'

NPC: Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Scientist-G

8. AICRP-15 ‘Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica* Linn.): Domestication, Conservation and Deployment of Genetic Resources for Sustenance and Livelihood Amelioration’

NPC: Dr. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Group Co-ordinator (Research)

Valedictory session:

Dr. R. Yasodha, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB extended a cordial welcome to all dignitaries, researchers, and attendees, appreciating their active participation and commitment to the project goals. She highlighted that the two-day workshop included detailed discussions on seven All India Coordinated Research Projects and Forest Genetic Resource Management project funded by the Ministry through CAMPA. She mentioned that during the workshop the outcomes and findings of the various projects were discussed in detail. She assured all stakeholders that the recommendations and suggestions provided during the discussions would be duly incorporated into the project completion report. Furthermore, she affirmed that the finalized report would be submitted to both the Ministry and ICFRE. She welcomed Mr. Pugazhendhi IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Kerala Forest Department, and acknowledged his valuable presence at the event. She highlighted that the Kerala Forest Department played a pivotal role in enabling IFGTB’s field activities and the Department’s contribution towards funding research projects and collaboratively addressing key research problems was also specially acknowledged.

Dr. Geeta Joshi, Assistant Director General (Media and Extension), ICFRE, extended a warm welcome to all participants and congratulated the National Project Coordinators, Principal Investigators, Co-Principal Investigators, and officers associated with Project. Considering that the initiative started during the difficult COVID-19 pandemic time, she also praised everyone's commitment. In contrast to employing a general strategy, Dr. Joshi stressed the significance of creating project-specific plans based on stakeholder demands. She assured that ICFRE would continue to support the second phase and work collaboratively with all teams. She suggested to prepare extension report on the Tamarind project as discussed in the workshop. She also underlined how crucial it is to record success stories once each initiative is over. According to her, this ought to emphasize the main results and advantages provided to the public and stakeholders. She recommended creating a short movie and one to two-page brochures highlighting these success stories in order to raise awareness and visibility. These would

highlight the significance of the work and give credit to those who contributed. She also insisted to submit two or three slide presentations for the projects which requires the extension. She concluded her remarks by thanking all the dignitaries, National Project Coordinators, Principal Investigators, Co-Principal Investigators, and the Project team for their dedicated efforts and valuable contributions throughout the course of the project.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE, welcomed the gathering, including representatives from the State Forest Departments, National Project Coordinators, Principal Investigators, Co-Principal Investigators, scientists, forest officials, and all project staff. He acknowledged the active participation of all members in the two-day workshop and noted that eight Project Completion Reports were presented by the National Project Coordinators and their teams. He commended Director, ICFRE- IFGTB and all the National Project Coordinators for their dedicated efforts. In order to shape the future direction and continuity of the integrated research activities, he highlighted that the primary goal of the meeting was to discuss how the projects will be carried forward. He emphasised that the National Project Coordinators' long-term vision has now produced notable outcomes, and the workshop successfully presented the projects' outputs to the stakeholders. He also emphasized the importance of continued research on key species such as Casuarina, Eucalyptus, Teak, Sandalwood, and Tamarind, noting that these require extensive field and laboratory work. He highlighted that these species were well-represented in the workshop discussions. He specifically acknowledged Dr. Jeyaprakash for his mention of plans to release Casuarina clones at the national level, marking a significant step forward. He also noted that, till date, several ICFRE institutes have released clones, which have been tested across various regions of the country. The workshop's key highlights, according to Dr. Rajesh Sharma, were the important insights that Dr. Karthikeyan and Dr. Senthil Kumar shared during the discussions on biopesticides and biofertilizers, particularly their performance in comparison to commercial products on the market. In order to guarantee successful results in the projects' second phase, he urged the National Project Coordinators to continue their dedicated efforts. Emphasizing the need for long-term vision, he stated that planning should not be limited to the next five years, but should instead encompass at least a 30-year strategic outlook to achieve meaningful and lasting results. Accordingly, he urged all National Project Coordinators to formulate detailed execution plans to guide their work moving forward. During his speech, Dr. Rajesh Sharma also acknowledged Dr.

Geeta Joshi for highlighting that ICFRE has successfully implemented such an initiative on a large scale, marking a significant milestone. He noted that through this effort, the teams have come to realize their own capability, experience, and potential to conceptualize and execute similar initiatives in the future. He congratulated all the National Project Coordinators for their commitment and teamwork, and extended special appreciation to Dr. Yasodha, Director of the Institute, for her leadership. He concluded by expressing his sincere thanks to Dr. Geeta Joshi for her active involvement and support throughout the initiative.

The chief guest, Dr. P. Pugazhendhi, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Kerala Forest Department delivered the valedictory address. He shared a sense of nostalgia while recalling his past association with IFGTB and his experiences in Coimbatore, expressing fond memories and appreciation for the institute's contributions to forestry research and collaboration over the years.

The chief guest highlighted that unscientific land-use practices have placed immense pressure on forest ecosystems, bringing both the State Forest Departments and the National Forest Service under significant strain. He pointed out that due to the challenging geography and climatic conditions, effective forest management has become increasingly complex. He noted that during the recent natural disasters in Kerala, the support extended by neighbouring states was crucial. These incidents caused a change in public opinion, which made the people of Kerala reconsider and reassess their land-use policies in order to better prepare for disasters in the future. The Re-Evaluate Kerala effort was started as a result of this change in viewpoint, which increased public and policymaker knowledge. The program stressed the importance of managing natural forests and their resources rather than just plantation areas. This new approach laid the groundwork for the Eco-Reservation Policy of 2021, introduced by the Government of Kerala, which aimed to restore and protect forest ecosystems from the monocultural plantation of Acacia and Eucalyptus with native species. He also acknowledged the research contributions made by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding in the field of Scientific research. He emphasized the institute's ability to handle new ecological and forestry concerns and encouraged to pursue more thorough and sophisticated research. He pointed out that these organizations have done significant work and that comparable models may be investigated and modified to support current and upcoming conservation, forestry, and ecosystem-based management projects. Sincere gratitude was expressed by Dr. P. Pugazhendhi for the cooperation between the Kerala Forest

Department and other research organizations, In the fields of forest management and natural resource conservation, he recognized the important inputs and scientific contributions made by these institutions, stressing the importance of these collaborations in forming well-informed policies and sustainable practices on the ground.

Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-G delivered the formal vote of thanks.

Glimpses of the workshop



Welcome address by Dr. Modhumita Das Gupta, Scientist-G & GCR, ICFRE-IFGTB



Briefing about the AICRP/FGR workshop by Dr. R. Yasodha, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB.



Special address by Dr. Geeta Joshi, ADG (Media & Extension)



Special address by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, DDG (Research), ICFRE.



Address by Shri. Seva Singh, IFS, PCCF & Director, TNFA as Guest of Honour



Inaugural address by Smt. Kanchan Devi, IFS, DG, ICFRE



Release of Products and Extension materials by the dignitaries





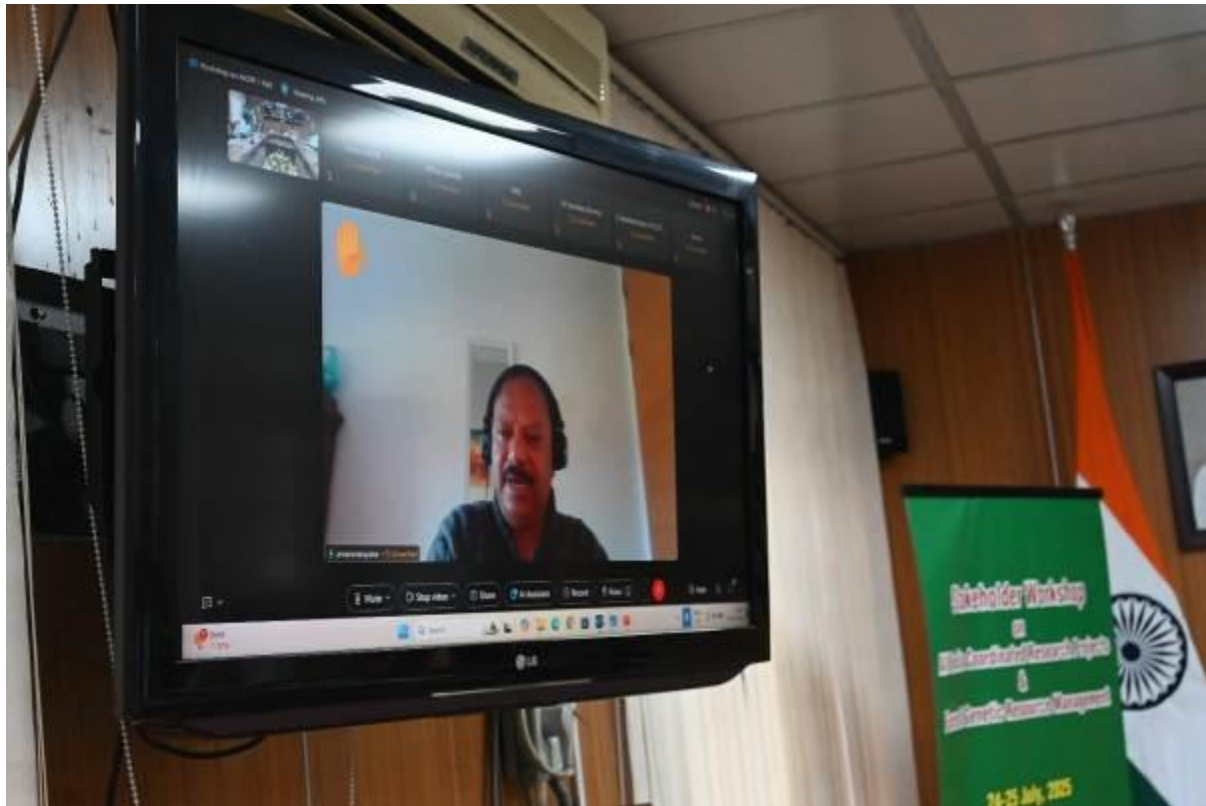


Presentation of the Project Completion Reports by the National Project Coordinators



















Valedictory address by Dr. P. Pugazhendi, IFS, APCCF, Kerala Forest Department