“MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS: BALANCING FOOD-WOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY”

17 - 19 July, 2025
ICFRE- INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE

SPONSORED BY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable land-use practices aimed at enhancing ecological balance, livelihood resilience, and climate mitigation. In line with this vision, ICFRE-IFGTB organized a three-day comprehensive training programme on “**Multifunctional Agroforestry Systems: Balancing Food-Wood Security and Environmental Sustainability**” to build capacity among key stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Nature Club members, and members of Tree Growing Federations.

The primary objective of the training was to empower civil society to work towards a more sustainable, equitable, and ecologically secure future. By strengthening their capacities, the programme aims to amplify agroforestry adoption across landscapes and foster community-based conservation and development initiatives.

This training was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, under the ‘Forestry Training & Capacity Building – Training for Personnel for Other Stakeholders’ scheme.

A total of 30 participants from various stakeholder groups attended the training. The module featured a wide range of technical sessions, including:

General Principles and Practices of Agroforestry

Casuarina-based Agroforestry Models

Windbreak Agroforestry Systems

Tissue Culture Teak in Agroforestry

Sandalwood-based Agroforestry Systems

Gmelina and Melia-based Agroforestry Systems

TreeGenie – An Interactive Digital Platform for Agroforestry

Inaugural Session Highlights

The welcome address was given by Dr. K. Ganesh Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) & Head, Extension Division, IFGTB. In his address, he emphasized the significance of natural resources, particularly forests, and noted that conservation has been valued since ancient times. He provided insights into the history of agroforestry, especially its traditional role as backyard forestry among households, and compared its status across various states. He stressed the importance of promoting agroforestry as a win-win solution for both farmers and society at large.

Shri G.R. Madhavaraj, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Extension Division, provided an overview of the training objectives and the expected outcomes. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, presided over the inaugural session and outlined the various research initiatives undertaken by the institute in the field of agroforestry. He explained that ICFRE-IFGTB has developed region-specific agroforestry models tailored to different agro-climatic zones, catering to both smallholder farmers and commercial plantations. He also elaborated on the strategies adopted for research, extension, and dissemination, stating that the training aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of multifunctional agroforestry systems—including their economic benefits, species selection, design principles, and practical implementation.

Chief Guest's Address

Dr. P.P. Murugan, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. In his remarks, he highlighted the growing challenges posed by climate change, land

degradation, and unsustainable resource use. He emphasized that agroforestry offers a climate-resilient and economically viable solution. He called for greater collaboration between research institutions and stakeholders to translate scientific knowledge into tangible field-level outcomes. Dr. Murugan encouraged participants to conduct On-Farm Trials for wider technology outreach and work collectively to refine region-specific models, popularize high-value tree species, and empower tree growers. He commended ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing this timely and relevant training and assured TNAU's continued support in advancing agroforestry initiatives in the state.

Field Visit to FCRI, Mettupalayam

As part of the training, a one-day field visit was organized to the Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), Mettupalayam. Participants were exposed to pioneering research in agroforestry, including value chain models and the functioning of the Agroforestry Consortium. The visit also highlighted technological advancements such as precision silviculture, adoption of multifunctional agroforestry systems, and value-addition technologies for agroforestry development.

At the Clonal Multiplication Garden of IFGTB, Smt. K. Shanti, Chief Technical Officer (CTO), demonstrated advanced clonal propagation techniques used for Eucalyptus, Casuarina, and other key species. Participants also visited the Gass Forest Museum, where Shri P. Chandrasekaran, CTO, briefed them on the historical significance of the century-old museum and its role in promoting nature education and conservation awareness.

Valedictory Session

The training programme concluded with a valedictory session on 19.07.2025, during which participants shared their feedback and received participation certificates. They were also provided with reading materials on agroforestry to support their continued learning and application. Shri P. Chandrasekaran delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of the MoEF&CC, resource persons, and all participants for making the training a success.

(DIRECTOR)

	
Dr. B. Nagarajan, Director, ICFRE- IFGTB addressing the participants	Dr.P.P.Murugan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, during his address
	
Agroforestry: Principles and Practices by Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar, IFS,CCF,IFGTB	Tissue Culture Teak in Agroforestry, Dr. Rekha R. Warrier, Scientist, IFGTB
	
Casuarina based Agroforestry models by Dr.A.Nicodemus, Scientist, ICFRE-IFGTB	Windbreak based Agroforestry systems by Dr.C.Buvaneswaran, Scientist,ICFRE-IFGTB

Sandal based Agroforestry systems by Dr.V.Sivakumar, Scientist, IFGTB

Gmelina and Melia based Agroforestry systems by Shri.A.Mayavel,Scientist,IFGTB

Agroforestry Consortium by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Professor, FCRI

Value Chain Management in Industrial Agroforestry

Visit to Multifunctional Agroforestry models in FCRI, Mettupalayam by Dr.C.N.Hari Prasath, Technical Assistant

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