

ONE WEEK COMPULSORY TRAINING COURSE FOR IFS OFFICERS ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

AT IFGTB, COIMBATORE, 12-16, JUNE 2017

One week compulsory Training Course for the Indian Forest Service officers on "Forest Genetic Resource Management" was organized at IFGTB, Coimbatore from 12.6.2017 to 16.6.2017, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India. A total of 18 IFS officers at the level of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officers from different states attended the said training programme. The Training programme was inaugurated on 16.6.2017. The inaugural function of the training programme started with an invocation followed by the welcome address and Introduction of Training by Dr. K. Palanisamy, the Training Co-ordinator, IFGTB.

Dr. K. Palanisamy, gave the main features of the training programme. He emphasized the importance of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) which provide food, wood, medicine and also as source material for development of new varieties. He elaborated the threats and constraints in relation to FGRs and the need for Forest Genetic Resources Conservation, Management and Documentation. He stated that FAO has taken initiative for Conservation and Management of Forest Genetic Resources at global level. He pointed out that IFGTB is one of the nodal centres in the country for FGR management through Forest Genetic Resources Management Network (FGRMN) which involves State Forest Departments, ICFRE Research Institutes and Agricultural Universities across the country. He also explained the five days training modules.



Shri R.S. Prashanth, Director, IFGTB, while addressing the importance of the training, informed that the Indian foresters have prioritized at least 200 species of trees that grow in different parts of India where soil and weather conditions vary widely. Depending upon the various ecoclimatic and other factors there is variation within a given species he added. He explained about the ongoing activities of FGR in IFGTB and other ICFRE institutes and the efforts in conserving forest genetic resources, tree breeding programmes to enhance forest productivity. He highlighted the importance of Forest Genetic Resources conservation and

explained how FGR should be used for conservation and sustainable utilization for a longer period. He also emphasized about the natural diversity, characteristic of forest tree species in the world and its conservation, in order to enable sustainable use of the best forest genetic resources for timber and other forest products and services.

The Chief Guest, **Prof. Dr. A. Ganapathi**, Vice Chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore inaugurated the Training programme by lighting the lamp. He also released the Training Manual on Forest Genetic Resource Management. In his inaugural address, he narrated that India has the vast forest genetic resources in the world which needs to be conserved by the Forest Department and Research organizations. While delivering the inaugural address, the chief guest pointed out that Red Sandars is endemic to India and it is exported to other countries. However the biochemical constituents of the tree are not fully understood. Therefore Research has to be carried out in this line for conservation and effective utilization. He also pointed out that *Podophyllum hexandrum* growing in Himalayan hills have high potential than the *Podophyllum peltatum* growing in USA which is used for cancer treatment and chemotherapy. A collaborative Research may be carried out by ICFRE Institutes and Universities to understand the potential of the species for conservation and management.

Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist proposed vote of thanks.





During the 5 days training programme experts from various Research Organizations, Universities and IFGTB delivered lectures on Exploration, Collection, Conservation, Documentation and Characterization of Forest Genetic Resources. The various topics covered in the Training programme are Forest Genetic Resources and FGRMN Perspectives; Status of Forest Genetic Resources in the Country; Forest Genetic Resources – Strategies for Management; Exploration, Collection and Conservation of Genetic Resources of FGRMN Prioritized Species; Realizing Economic Gain from Forest Genetic Resources through Tree Breeding; Role of Forest Seed Bank in Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources; Morphological Characterization for Selection of Populations for Conservation; Documentation of Forest Genetic Resources; Applications of Geoinformatics in Forest Genetic Resource Management; Genetic Resources of Teak in India; Genetic Resources of Bamboos and its Conservation in India; Mangrove Forests in India: Conservation and Sustainable Management; The Biology of Plant Reproduction for Conservation and Domestication of Forest Genetic Resources; Floristic Diversity in India; Insect Pests and Diseases Management for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources, and Impacts of Climate Change on Growth and Productivity in Crops and Forests. The Germplasm Collection, Conservation, Documentation and Characterization of Agricultural and Horticultural crops in NBPGR and IIHR were also discussed which gives an idea for FGR conservation. Dr. K. Palanisamy, the Training Coordinator in his lecture Forest Genetic Resources and FGRMN Perspectives clearly explained how the FGRMN programme is being implemented in the country by ICFRE Institutes, and the role of State forest departments. He explained the methodologies followed for Germplasm collection, conservation, documentation and characterization with studies carried out in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The participants were also taken to field gene banks of Institute research stations, vegetative multiplication garden, nursery and laboratories of IFGTB and research activities, multiplication of clones and germplasm assemblage were explained. They also visited the Forest Genetic Resources in Protected Areas of Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, and also visited the Seed Production Areas (SPA) of Teak maintained by TNFD at Topslip. The participants were also exposed to Ramiah Gene Bank at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



A panel discussion on “Improvement in the working of forest departments- Need for career development through training and improvement of skills” was organized on 16.6.2017. The training programme was concluded on 16.6.2017 with valedictory function and certificates were distributed to participants.