

A Report on Training on “Bioprospecting and Biopiracy”
Under
“Forestry Training and Capacity building” for Personnel of other services
13-15 September, 2017

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has organised three days training on “**Bioprospecting and Biopiracy**” Under “**Forestry Training and Capacity building**” for Personnel of other services during **13-15 September, 2017**. A sum of 30 participants from various Government departments viz., Agriculture, Adidravidar & Tribal Welfare, Public Works, Rural, Public Health, Revenue, Academic, Police, Bank, Central Reserve Police Force, Irrigation, Soil Conservation, Tourism and Tele-communication participated in the training. The prime objective of the training was to create awareness on biodiversity wealth of our country to the personnels of other services and make them understand the importance of forest bio resources, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), sustainable use, legal issues like Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the scope, challenges and prospects of forest resources with reference to bioprospecting and biopiracy.

The programme opened with an inaugural session on 13.09.2017 followed by a brief Institute presentation. During inaugural function Shri R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB informed that the bioprospecting is not new to us, it is being practised since time immemorial. Bioprospecting deals with the development and commercialisation of product made out of bio resources. Most of our ailments are being treated by traditional healers using locally available medicinal plants. Therefore, the training focussed on biodiversity wealth of our nation and their bioprospecting potential to personnels of other services. Dr. S. Murugesan, Group Coordinator Research, informed that most of the high value drugs are derived from natural resources and has lot of bioprospecting potential. Hence, every citizen of this country should know about the importance of plant wealth and their utilization for bioprospecting and biopiracy. Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist-E, briefed about the training and Smt. R. Sumathi, Research officer welcomed the participants.

The technical session included the presentations on Bioprospecting of forest resources, Bioprospecting, ABS and IPR, Herbals for head to foot: Bioprospecting Values, Bioprospecting and Siddha, Microbial prospecting and Bioprospecting of Natural colourants. The resource persons involved in this training were Dr. S. Murugesan, Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Dr. R. Senthilkumar, Dr. K.R. Sasidharan, Dr. R. Arivukkarasu, Dr. V. Azhagarasi, Dr. V. Mohan and Dr. S. Periyasamy. Participants were also exposed to various laboratories and nurseries of the institute and the Gass Forest Museum.

Participants were also taken to a field trip to Baralikadu, an ecotourism park, where they were exposed to tribal hamlets and had interactions with them on traditional knowledge, use of medicinal plants for various ailments and also discussed with forest department officials on resource availability and management.

Recommendations were drawn during panel discussion and most of the participants opined that the training duration may be extended to five days and such trainings for school and college students are also needed. Shri R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore distributed certificates to participants. The Group Co-ordinator Research, Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist G was also present in the valedictory function. Dr.A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-E, Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist-C, Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist-C, Shri K. Giresan, Research officer-I, Smt. R. Sumathi, Research officer-I, Smt. R. Lakshmidevi, Technical Officer and Shri S. Sundararajan, Assistant were involved in the training.





