

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Coimbatore – 641 002

1st Research Scholars' Monthly Seminar 10th August, 2018

With a view to develop the desired scientific temperament and to enhance the research aptitude, the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has initiated a monthly seminar for young researchers associated with different projects being executed by the Institute. In a first of its kind, the first seminar cum presentation session was arranged for the research scholars on **10th August, 2018** in Bamboo Lawn of IFGTB. The seminar also aimed at developing good presentation skills, encouraging healthy discussion and overall grooming of scholars in problem formulation, methodology and research writing. The selection of the speakers is on a random basis from three different categories based on the years of research experience. A conventional method of presenting the research using white board and markers have been followed to enable better presentation skills, and audience interaction.

The first seminar began with the opening remarks of the Director, who emphasized on contributing towards the scientific advancement of the Institute, while promoting research through exchange of scientific and technical thoughts. He added that the initiative is intended to develop better presentation and public speaking competencies, high scientific appreciation and better research debate and writing. The Director also reiterated that all scholars of the institute should make their engagement with IFGTB fruitful through research learning and knowledge gain and development of various skills and must focus on the publication of few good quality articles / papers.

The Director's address was followed by the presentations of three research scholars, Mrs. Suresh Babu, JRF, Bioprospecting Division, Ms. Vikashini, B, JRF, Plant Biotechnology and Cytogenetics Division and Mr. R Chandra Sekar, JRF, Genetic and Tree Improvement Division.

Mr.Suresh Babu presented his research work entitled “**Development of biopesticides from *Semicarpus anacardium* L.F. seeds for use against insect defoliators of *Tectona grandis* L.F.. *Alianthus excels* Desf. and *Casuarina equisetifolia* L**”. He enumerated on the species chosen, its distribution, importance in relation to his research problem, explaining the methods of seed collection, seed material preservation, extraction of seed oils, properties of the oils, bioassay studies, biopesticide activity and instrumentations used.

Mr. Vikashini B. explained her research topic “**Wood Transcriptome Analysis of Lignin Biosynthetic Pathways in *Casuarina equisetifolia* L.**” She detailed the use of the plant, its collaborated breeding program, Lignin interference in pulpwood used for paper manufacturing, identification of genes responsible for lignin biosynthesis and marker assisted selection for improving the tree species.

Mr. R. Chandra Sekar discussed the basics of Tree Improvement and the steps followed for the selection of improved trees based on his research problem.

All the three presentations were followed by open house discussion on the respective themes, species involved and research methods and methodologies. The research scholars expressed their enthusiasm by actively participating in the discussion and received the session very welcomingly.

The session concluded with the selection of the next three scholars that would present their research work in the coming month. The scholars selected for the next month are Mr. M. Anandaprabhakaran, JRF, Forest Genetic Resource Management Division, Ms. Lenora, JRF, Bioprospecting Division and Mr. Muthuraj, JRF, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division.

The Director thanked the organizing committee led by Dr. Rekha R Warrier, Scientist ‘E’, Plant Biotechnology Division, and advise the team to notify the next date and issue the proceedings of the seminar.

(Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS)

निदेशक / Director

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IFGTB, Coimbatore



