



TREE GROWERS MELA

20thSeptember, 2025, Nemmara, Palakkad District, Kerala

Organized by

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

in collaboration with

Kerala Forest Department, Nemmara, Kerala

Theme: ' Tree Cultivation techniques for increasing farm income'

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree breeding, Coimbatore has been organizing Tree Growers Mela in mandated states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and UT of Puducherry to spread awareness on tree cultivation using improved planting materials, including clones. In continuation to the efforts, ICFRE-IFGTB organized Tree Growers Mela on 20thSeptember, 2025 at Nemmara, Palakkad District, Kerala under the theme '**Tree cultivation techniques for increasing farm income**' in collaboration with Kerala Forest Department, Nemmara, Palakkad District.

This Tree Growers Mela, 2025 served as an integration platform for Agricultural University, Forest Research institute, State Forest Department, Wood based industry, Forest Development Agency and government agencies to equip the tree growers with the information on all aspects of tree cultivation in farm lands. Industrial partner Kerala Paper Products Ltd., (KPPL), Kerala Forest Department(KFD), *Jaivorg* -a Sustainable Food Forest Farming Community, Kerala Agriculture University(KAU)and ICFRE-IFGTB contributed their technical inputs on land specific tree cultivation techniques, availability of improved planting material for the commonly planted tree species, demand and supply of raw material for wood based industry of the region. Overwhelmingly, 250 participants including tree growers/farmers from Nemmara,

Chittor, Kollengode and Alathur blocks of Palakkad district, field officials of KFD, Scientists from Kerala Agriculture University, members of Forest Development Agency, Nemmara and representatives of nearby Village Panchayats participated in the mela.

Shri. K.Babu, Hon`ble MLA of Nemmara, Palakkad was the Chief Guest of the mela. He opened the exhibition on 'Tree Cultivation Technologies' arranged exclusively for the mela. Dr. R.Yasodha, Director ICFRE -IFGTB explained the technologies and products developed by the institute. Hon`ble MLA inaugurated the sale of IFGTB products. He purchased the first TC Teak plant in the IFGTB stall.

Inaugural session of the Tree Growers 2025, started with the State Anthem of Kerala. Dr. R.Yasodha, Director ICFRE -IFGTB presided over the inaugural session. Shri. K.Babu, Hon`ble MLA of Nemmara, Palakkad delivered the inaugural address. The mela was organized and coordinated by Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Head, Extension. Shri.K.Vijayanathan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle, Palakkad graced the occasion and welcomed the gathering and explained the significance of the mela and also gave a broad outline of the program.

Dr. R. Yasodha, Director, ICFRE- IFGTB, during her Presidential address, emphasized that Kerala is one of the prioritized State having tremendous potential for trees in farm lands and highlighted that tree farming have gained momentum which necessitated the institute to organize Tree Growers Mela to transfer the technical inputs to tree growers. She briefed the research and extension activities of the institute focused mainly on the needs and demands of various stakeholders. She also mentioned that, tree cultivation could pave way for best alternative to the farmers for realizing increased productivity and higher farm net income. She further added that, this TGM offers excellent platform for various stakeholders viz., research institutes, Forest Development Agency, wood based industries etc., to address the needs of the farmers/tree growers.

Dr. K.Ganesh Kumar, IFS, CCF & Head Extension delivered the Vote of thanks and he asked the farmers to take up tree farming in large scale and explore the scope for the contract farming with wood based industries. He insisted that introduction of new technologies would lead to increase in the yield and farm income for the farmers.

Shri. K. Babu, Hon'ble MLA, Nemmara, Palakkad during his inaugural address stated that, trees are the only solution to overcome the climate change issues and these trees are capable to sequester more carbon. He advised the farmers to plant trees of different rotation period will return back in a sustainable manner. He also stressed the need for looking into the alternative farming system for increasing farm income and safeguard farmers from agricultural distress. He immensely thanked ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore for hosting the TGM in Nemmara considering its potential for growing trees in fallow lands. He also wished farmers would take up the technologies showcased by ICFRE-IFGTB and more specifically by utilizing high quality planting material (clones) for increased productivity. He requested the authorities to take up farmers exchange programmes for promoting tree cultivation in the region.

Later, the Hon'ble MLA released a book on 'Tree cultivation in farmlands' in Malayalam prepared by ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore. The participants and farmers were given free copies of the book.

Technical session

The following presentation presentations were made during the mela and the details are below;

Resource persons	Presentation Theme
Smt. K. Shanthi, Chief Technical Officer, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore	Cultivation of Tissue Culture Teak & Melia
Shri. P. Vipin, Technical Assistant, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore	Cultivation of Gmelina and Ailanthus

Dr.T.K.Kunhamu, Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University	Tree cultivation for increasing farm income: Scope and Strategies-
Shri. B. Ranjit, Asst. Conservator of Forests, KFD	Cultivation practices of Sandal
Shri.Binu K, Forest Officer, KPPL, Kottayam.	Procurement policy of pulpwood species in Kerala Paper Products Lts(KPPL)
Shri. Reji Joseph, Organic farmer, Jaivorg, Sreekrishnapuram	Success stories: Experience Sharing on successful commercial tree plantation in Kerala
Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, Chief Technical Officer, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore	TreeGenie- Mobile App.of ICFRE-IFGTB

The resource persons, panel members from ICFRE-IFGTB, KPPL and officials of Kerala Forest Department shared their knowledge and experience in detail including cultivation techniques, felling and transportation and market price for pulp wood species, etc. Farmers / Tree Growers interacted with the experts and clarified their doubts on different aspects *viz.*, cultivation, protection, irrigation, harvesting, marketing and timber transportation, etc.,

An exclusive Exhibition on 'Tree Cultivation Technologies' was arranged for the benefit of participants. ICFRE-IFGTB, Kerala Forest Department, Kerala Agriculture University, Nemmara Forest Development Agency have participated in exhibition and displayed various technologies in clonal forestry, package of practices recommended for major tree crops, products developed. The exhibition also promoted popularization of the Mobile App "TreeGenie" – digital interactive platform for tree growers developed by ICFRE-IFGTB. Products developed by ICFRE-IFGTB were displayed. Sale of Tissue Culture Teak was also arranged.

**DIRECTOR
IFGTB**



Inauguration of Exhibition by Chief Guest and visiting ICFRE-IFGTB Stall



Sale of TC Teak plant of ICFRE-IFGTB



Inauguration of the Tree Growers Mela by the dignitaries

The Hon'ble MLA released the book on 'Tree cultivation in farmlands' (Malayalam)



Shri. K.Babu, Hon`ble MLA of Nemmara, Palakkad during his address



Dr.R.Yasodha, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB during her address



Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar, IFS, CCF during his address



Smt.K.Shanthi, CTO during her lecture on TC Teak cultivation



Shri.P.Vipin, Technician during his address on Gmelina



Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, CTO on TreeGenie Mobile App



Shri. Reji Joseph, Organic farmer, Jaivorg sharing his success stories



Visitors at ICFRE-IFGTB Stall



Registration of participants



Panel discussion and farmers interaction



ICFRE-IFGTB honoring Kerala Forest Dept.