

**Report on the Research Advisory group (RAG) meeting 2020 held on 15.10.2020
at IFGTB Coimbatore**

The Research Advisory group (RAG) meeting for 2020 was held under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Chairman and Director, IFGTB, at the conference hall of IFGTB on 15.10.2020. In view of the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was also held in online mode simultaneously. The following members attended the meeting online:-

1. Dr P Durairasu, PCCF (Research & Education), Tamilnadu Forest Department
2. Dr. Vimal Kothiyal ADG (Research Plan)
3. Dr. Kunhamu, Associate Director of Research (Forestry), College of Forestry, KAU
4. Dr. Justin Mohan, Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
5. Sh. Pramod G. Krishnan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist –G (Retired)
7. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Ph.D. (Canada)Director of Research & NABARD Chair ,TNAU
8. Dr. Syam Viswanath,Director, KFRI, Peechi
9. Ms. Vinny R. Peter, Centre for Urban Biodiversity Conservation and Education, Coimbatore,
10. Dr. Ramakrishnan Hegde, Ph.D., Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry, College of Forestry, Ponnampet,
11. Dr. K. Krishnaveni, Ph.D, Assistant Professor (Chemistry Dept), Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore
12. Dr. P.V. Karunakaran, Principal Scientist, SACON, Coimbatore
13. Dr. Selvi Principal Scientist, Department of Biotechnology, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore.

and the following members attended the meeting at Conference hall, IFGTB

14. Dr. K. Kumaran, Professor of Forestry, Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU, Mettupalayam
15. Shri S. Senthilkumar, IFS, GCR IFGTB
16. Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist G, IFGTB
17. Dr. John Prasanth Jacob, Scientist G, IFGTB
18. Shri Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, CCF, IFGTB

The RAG members were warmly welcomed by the Dr C.Kunhikannan, Chairperson and Director, IFGTB and Sh.S.Senthilkumar, Group Coordinator (Research) gave a brief introduction about the Institute, details of ongoing projects under NFRP, External aided projects and All India Coordinated Research Projects. Further the members were apprised about the National Forestry Research Plan of ICFRE and the mandate of the RAG and scoring and evaluation of the new project proposals presented in the meeting. The following 7 new research projects were presented before the RAG members for their consideration and evaluation.

Sl.No.	Title	Principal Investigator
Thrust Area – I: Managing Forest & Forest Products for Livelihood Support and Economic Growth		
1	BIOCURE: A medicinal plant perspective for potential antiviral inhibitors for severe SARS-CoV2 acute infection	Dr. N. Senthilkumar
Thrust Area-IV: Forest Genetic Resource Management and Tree Improvement		
2	Standardization of cultivation practices for clones of <i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> and popularization in farmlands	Dr. R. Anandalakshmi,
3	Evaluation of Multi-location Clonal Trials of <i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Dr. Kannan.C. Warrier
4	Domestication of <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> clones for enhancing productivity and desirable wood quality for production of short rotation timber.	Shri. A. Mayavel
5	Screening and assessment of the untapped potential of <i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth an indigenous genetic resources for Timber	Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar
6	Evaluation of Genetic Resources of <i>Cinchona</i> spp. in India, Establishment of field gene bank and commercial plantations for increased quinine production – the potential natural drug for COVID 19	Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar
7	Progeny evaluation of <i>Acacia nilotica</i> L. for growth, wood traits and edible gum to improve productivity in Tamil Nadu.	Dr. K. Paneerselvam

The Group Coordinator further sought extension of period without any additional budget for the following projects which are coming to a close on March 2021.

Sl.No.	Title	Principal Investigator
1	Developing and Popularizing Digital Interacrive Platform for Tree Growers and other stake holders of Tamilnadu	Sh Rajesh Gopalan
2	Preparation of yield table for indigenous tree species in Tamilnadu	Dr C Buvaneswaran
3	Bioformulations of <i>Micromonospora</i> for biocontrol and biofertilization activity in <i>Casuarinas</i>	Dr A.Karthikeyan
4	Managing critical ecosystems tree improvement and biotechnological interventions capture genetics and adaptive variations in <i>Rhizophora</i> .	Dr B.Nagarajan

The RAG members also gave their suggestions for new areas of research and the importance of collaborative research. The Chairperson and Director, IFGTB, concluded the meeting and thanked the RAG members for giving their valuable suggestions. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks given by Dr Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist F.



Dr C Kunhikannan
Director, IFGTB