

REPORT ON

“ONE DAY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION OF CASUARINA WINDBREAK CLONES & POPULARISATION OF TREEGENIE MOBILE APP”

08.03.2023

AN EVENT OF VAN VIGYAN KENDRA, COIMBATORE

ICFRE - INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING,
Coimbatore & VANAVARAYAR INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, Pollachi

Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Coimbatore of IFGTB in collaboration with Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi organized one day technology demonstration of Casuarina Windbreak clones & popularization of TreeGenie mobile app on 08.03.2023.

IFGTB, Coimbatore had released five superior clones (WBC-1, WBC-2, WBC-3, WBC-4 and WBC-5) of *Casuarina junghuhniana* for providing protection against windstorms to horticultural and agricultural crops. Annual crop loss worth crores of rupees was reported in the country due to windstorms. This crop loss due to heavy wind was more frequently being reported in banana plantations. To efficiently manage this recurrent problem, IFGTB's Casuarina windbreak tree varieties planted on the periphery of farm lands had shown great promise to slow down the speed of wind and minimize the damage to cash crops.

In this background, the institute has organised one day training on 08.03.23 for catering to the needs for the banana growers in Pollachi and nearby areas including farmers from bordering areas of Kerala, in light of recent damages reported to banana crop due to wind. This one day training was organised for *Banana growers on the theme* “Casuarina Windbreak clones & popularization of Treegenie mobile app” as part of extension activity under the Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Coimbatore in collaboration with Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi. A total of 43 farmers participated in the program.

In the inaugural session, Shri. P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO, IFGTB welcomed the gathering and outlined the significance of the program. He also gave overview of the integrated Extension activities of IFGTB and the training programme.

Dr. Sivakumar, Vice Principal, Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi, spoke on the occasion and welcomed the idea of networking with IFGTB for jointly organizing the training. He also assured to host more activities jointly by both the organizations blending forestry and agriculture, to strengthen the dissemination of technologies to various stakeholders.

IFGTB brochures on “*Windbreak Tree Varieties*” & Publications of IFGTB were distributed among the participants during the program. Farmers were also taken to Field Station of Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi for On Farm Trial demonstration of IFGTB Windbreak clones.

Dr.C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist & Head, Silviculture & Forest Management division, IFGTB handled the technical session on “***Casuarina Windbreak clones***” & “***IFGTBs initiatives for Tree Varieties for Windbreak***”. He showcased the technology of windbreak clones and clones released by IFGTB to the banana growers. He explained the design, package of practices and economics of the plantation model. During the open house discussion the farmers raised their queries which were addressed by the beneficiary farmers and by Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran.

Shri.P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO conducted the session on “***TREEGENIE – Interactive Digital platform of IFGTB***” for the mobile app popularisation wherein, he explained that TreeGenie is the digital platform developed by ICFRE-IFGTB connecting all the stakeholders in a common platform and serving the stakeholders' needs, like information on tree growers, quality planting material (QPM) propagators and nurseries growers, research institutions / scientists, state forest departments and wood-based industry and traders. He explained the key functionalities of the TreeGenie Mobile Application, its uses and installation procedures.

The training programme ended with Vote of thanks by Shri. G. R. Madhavaraj, IFS, DCF, Extension division, IFGTB.

Director
IFGTB



Welcome address by Shri.P.Chandrasedaran, ACTO, IFGTB



Dr.Sivakumar, Vice Principal, Vanavarayar Institute of Agri, Pollachi addressing the gathering



Participants Registration



Banana growers of Pollachi attending the training



Dr. C.Buvaneswaran, Scientist, IFGTB presenting in the technical session



Shri.P.Chandrasedaran, ACTO, presenting the features of TreeGenie Mobile App



Participants observing Winbreak clones of IFGTB at the On Farm Field Trial at Vanavarayar Institute of Agri, Pollachi

