

## **BRIEF REPORT OF TRAINING ON "ROLE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS AND OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS IN LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT FOR TRIBALS OF NILGIRI DISTRICT"**

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) conducted a training programme on "Role of Medicinal Plants and other Forest Products in Livelihood Enhancement for Tribals of Nilgiri District". The training was funded by Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) of Govt. of Tamil Nadu and organized at HADP Training Hall, Ootacamund, Nilgiri District and Tamil Nadu on 30-03-2015. A total of 44 participants consisting of tribal people of Nilgiri district and members from NGOs working there attended this training.

Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist – F and Nodal Officer, HADP Project, IFGTB welcomed the gathering and briefed about the IFGTB's research and extension activities. The training co-ordinator Dr. K. Panneer Selvam gave an overview of the training programme. Shri. A. Rajkumar, Consultant, Nilgiri Aadhiwasi Welfare Association (NAWA) Trust gave felicitation address and highlighted the importance of medicinal plants. Shri. Srinivas R. Reddy, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, TNFD and Project Director, HADP, Govt of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest. He inaugurated the training programme and addressed the participants. He informed that the HADP had given a project to IFGTB for "Augmentating medicinal plant resources and promoting medicinal plant based primary health care practices by the tribal communities in the Nilgiris so as to enable their livelihood enhancement". He mentioned that there is a wealth of traditional knowledge on medicinal use of various plant species by different tribes of Nilgiri district and stressed the need for documentation of all these information for the welfare of human beings. He pointed out that use of traditional medicines obtained from medicinal plants will provide good health and people would be benefitted against different kinds of disease. He also suggested that all the participants should interact with the speakers and exchange their experiences during technical sessions. The inaugural session was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. K. Panneer Selvam, Training Co-ordinator.

During technical sessions, the Training Co-ordinator gave a talk on "Role of tribal medicines in health care and socio-economic status of Nilgiri's tribes". Shri. K. Udhaya Kumar, Secretary, Healing of the People on the Earth (HOPE), Nilgiris, talked about "Propagation, cultivation, value addition and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants of the Nilgiris". A talk on Value addition and marketing of NWFPs of the Nilgiris was delivered by Shri. Robert Leo, Key Stone Foundation, Kothagiri, Nilgiri district. Later, there was interaction session and participants (herbal healers) exchanged their experience about use of medicinal plants in their respective areas.

The participants showed keen interest to know the propagation, cultivation, value addition and marketing of medicinal plants in their areas and appreciated the efforts of IFGTB and HADP for organizing such a training programme.



Invocation



Welcome address by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-F, IFGTB



Dr. K. Panneer Selvam, Scientist-C and IFGTB Training Co-ordinator given an overview of the training programme



Inauguration of the training by the Chief Guest, Shri. Srinivas R. Reddy, I.F.S, CCF, Field Director, MTR and Project Director, HADP, Govt. of Tamil Nadu



Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest



Felicitation by Shri. A. Rajkumar, Consultant, NAWA, Kotagiri.



Interaction with the participants



Lecture by Shri. A. Udhyakumar, HOPE, Nilgiris



Lecture delivered by Shri. Rober Leo, Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri, Nilgiris



Interaction between herbal healers and Participants