

TRAINING CUM DEMONSTRATION ON “BIO-FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AND APPLICATION IN NURSERY AND FIELD”

Venue: Science Interpretation Hall, Forestry Extension Centre, State Forest Department, Athanur, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu

Date: 22-08-2019

Training Coordinator: Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-G, Forest Protection Division, IFGTB, Coimbatore

Funding Agency: Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (TNSPC), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai

Bio-fertilizers are ready-to-use carrier based formulations of beneficial microorganisms which are applied to seed, root or soil. They mobilize the essential nutrients by their biological activity and help to enrich the soil micro-flora and in turn the soil health. Major focus is on the production of efficient and sustainable bio-fertilizers for crop plants wherein inorganic fertilizer application can be reduced significantly to avoid further pollution. With funding support from Tamil Nadu funded by the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (TNSPC), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has identified different beneficial microbes such as Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) and Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) fungi from different agriculture and forest ecosystems in the Kolli Hills, Namakkal District. IFGTB has taken up a Training cum Demonstration on “**Bio-fertilizer Production and Application Methods in Nursery and Field**” to different stake holders of Kolli Hills, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu. The training has been funded by TNSPC, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, and the first training has been conducted on **22-08-2019** at Science Interpretation Hall, Forestry Extension Centre, State Forest Department, Athanur, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu. A total of 100 participants including SFD Officials, Forest Protection Committee Members, Tree Growers, Farmers, Women Self Help Groups, School Teachers and NGOs of Kolli Hills attended the training. A training manual on "**Bio-fertilizers – Importance, Techniques, Production, Maintenance and Application in Nursery and Field**" in Tamil was also supplied to all the participants.

Welcome address and overview of the training programme was delivered by **Dr. V. Mohan**, *Scientist – G and Training Coordinator*, IFGTB, Coimbatore. He explained in detail about the role of bio-fertilizers in agriculture and forestry ecosystems and research works carried out at Kolli Hills and explored the status of various kinds of beneficial microbes in these ecosystems under ongoing research project funded by the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and also stressed about the importance of the training on bio-fertilizers. **Shri. N. Sakthivel**, *Asst. Conservator of Forests, Forestry Extension Officer*, Athanur, Namakkal, spoke on the importance of using organic manures and different bio-fertilizers in agriculture and vegetable crops for production of quality and healthy products.

The Chief Guest of the function, **Dr. R. Kanchana**, I.F.S., *District Forest Officer*, Namakkal Forest Division, inaugurated the training programme. During her inaugural address, she expressed the ill effects of synthetic chemical fertilizers used in agriculture and horticulture production and they pose various environmental hazards and health problems to human kind. She suggested that use of organic manures and different bio-fertilizers in agriculture, horticulture and forestry will not only improve the yield but also help in environmental protection. Dr. Kanchana also added that organically produced vegetables, fruits and food grains are readily available in the market which can improve health of the people and this training will provide a good opportunity to learn much about the different kinds of bio-fertilizers and their application methods. Dr Kanchana thanked the State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and the Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore for providing funding to organize this training programme for the betterment of the people of Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu.

Elaborate hands on training on methods of production, maintenance and application of bio-fertilizers in nursery and field for better production was provided by **Dr. V. Mohan**, *Training Coordinator*.



Welcome address by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-G and Training Coordinator, IFGTB Coimbatore



Felicitation address by Shri. N. Sakthivel, ACF, Forestry Extension Officer, Namakkal Forest Division, Athanur, Namakkal



**Inaugural address by the Chief Guest Dr. (Smt.) Kanchana, I.F.S.,
District Forest Officer, Namakkal Forest Division, Namakkal**



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Participants (Farmers, Women Self Help Groups, Tree Growers and SFD Officials) attended the training at Forestry Extension Centre, Athanur, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu





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Lecture about Bio-fertilizers and its application methods by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-G & Training Coordinator, IFGTB





Demonstration about AM fungal bio-fertilizer production by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-G & Training Coordinator, IFGTB





Interaction about Bio-fertilizers and their application and feedback from the participants



AM fungal Bio-fertilizers developed by IFGTB and supplied to all the participants attended the training at Forestry Extension Centre, Namakkal Forest Division, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu



Certificate and Bio-fertilizer distribution by the Chief Guest, Dr. (Smt.) R. Kanchana, I.F.S., District Forest Officer, Namakkal





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Vote of Thanks by Mr. S. Balu, Forest Range Officer, Forestry Extension Centre, Athanur, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu



Training cum demonstration on “Bio-fertilizer production and application in nursery and field” held at Science Interpretation Hall, Forestry Extension Centre, Athanur, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu