

RTI Mandatory disclosures

i. The particulars of its organisation, functions and duties;

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) was established under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in pursuance of the decision of the Government of India to reorganise the forestry research setup in the country. The Regional Research Centre, Coimbatore established in 1959 and headed by the Principal & Head of Biological Research, under the control of erstwhile Forest Research Institute & Colleges, Dehradun, was accorded the status of full-fledged national research institute in April 1988 as Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), based on the recommendations of a committee of experts (Order No. 1-1/87-RT of the 9th April, 1987). Various co-ordinated research projects located in and around Coimbatore such as Forest Soil and Vegetation Survey (HQ Dehradun) Coimbatore; Seed procurement and Tree improvement (HQ Hyderabad) Coimbatore; Environmental Research (HQ Dehradun), Ootacamund; Disease & Insect Survey (HQ Dehradun), Coimbatore; Eucalyptus Research (HQ Hyderabad), Coimbatore; Tropical Pines (HQ Dehradun), Coimbatore; Sandal Research (HQ Bangalore) Bangalore; Minor Forest Produce Research (HQ Dehradun), Bangalore; Wood preservation centre (HQ Dehradun), Chalakudi were merged to establish IFGTB (Order No. 4-12/87 RT dated 22 March 1988 of the MOE&F, Govt of India). Mandate of the Institute is to carry out national level research in the field of Genetics and Tree Breeding and to deal with regional research needs of the southern region.

The institute is situated in a prolific campus of about 60 hectares encompassing State and Central Forest Academies. The famous Gass Forest Museum, established in the year 1912 is managed by IFGTB. The institute works closely with Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and Andaman Nicobar State Forest Departments. Field research stations for undertaking field trials have been established in Panampally (Palakkad district), Kerala; Neyveli (Cuddalore district), Kurumbapatti (Salem district), Gudalur (Chennai), Manakkarai (Thirunelveli district), Thuvarakkurichi (Tiruchirappalli district). IFGTB is also the ENVIS Centre on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement.

The Fischer Herbarium at IFGTB serves as a reference centre for tropical plants to local plant taxonomists or botanists and students. Plant identification services are taken up.

Further, IFGTB functions as member of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Country-Coordinator for Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), National Focal Point of the FAO for providing information on Forest Genetic Resources for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and one of the Scientific Authority of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), India.

Mandate

To develop new varieties, management and silvicultural techniques to maximize productivity of natural and planted forests under different ecological considerations and changing environment

Thrust Areas

- Increasing productivity and evolving new varieties for farmlands / plantations by scientific breeding programmes, biotechnological interventions and silvicultural applications.
- Forest Genetic Resources Management (FGRM) for conservation, sustainable utilization and development of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR).
- To develop mitigation and adaptation strategies in forestry to meet the challenges of climate change
- Biodiversity documentation, conservation and restoration of fragile and degraded forest ecosystems.
- Research and knowledge management of forest soils, invasive species, forest fires, insect pests and diseases.
- Bioprospecting of forest resources for eco-friendly product development.
- Dissemination and sharing of technologies through innovative extension strategies.
- Market research for tree products, economic valuation and socio-economic studies.