

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

Coimbatore-641 002

2nd Research Scholars' Meet
10-09-2018

The second meeting in the series of students' research aptitude presentation was held on 10.09.2018 Monday at 4.30 PM. Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, the Director of the Institute addressed the students and highlighted on the importance of health and wellness in personal life. Referring to the 'Run for Green India Mission' conducted by IFGTB he appreciated the participation of the research scholars from the institute. The Director then invited the researchers, Mrs. L.M. Lenora, JRF, Bioprospecting Division, Mr. Anandaprabhakaran, FGR Division and Mr. K. Muthuraj, JRF, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division to present their respective topics.

Mrs. L.M. Lenora gave a talk on harnessing *Eichhornia crassipes*, an invasive alien aquatic weed as a potential source of shikimic acid, a precursor for swine/avian flue drug, Tamiflu®. She stated that *E. crassipes* contains significantly higher levels of shikimic acid (3.25%) in leaves which is higher than the commonly used Chinese star anise pods (1.77%). She informed the gathering that the content of this biochemical can be enhanced by treating the plant with glyphosate, a herbicide. She concluded that the AIS could be a potent source of many important metabolites of commercial importance and utilization of the plant would benefit both for management of the weed as well as meet the requirements of pharma.

Mr. M. Anandha Prabhakaran discussed about pelletisation of sandal seeds to enhance germination and field performance. He gave a brief description about the difficulties in raising the nursery seedlings owing to seed dormancy and parasitic nature of the plant. Seed pelleting with appropriate growth enhancers and beneficial microbes would be a promising alternative, he stated. He elaborated on the various processes involved in seed pelleting followed by host specificity studies. He concluded that pelleting would be a viable option in semi-arid and arid tracts where broadcasting of seeds is adopted.

Mr. K. Muthuraj described strategies for improvement of fodder trees to meet the demand in livestock improvement. He elaborate on the importance of fodder plant species and their availability, methods and utilization of the available plants and conservation aspects in different geographic regions of the country. He reiterated that focus on providing improved fodder crops to the farmers will enhance livestock production.

The presentations met with many questions from the fellow research scholars. The presenters handled the questions well. The Director appreciated the presenters for their well thought out presentation. He also provided suggestions for further improving their skills.



Director addressing the students



Mr Anand Prabhakaran displaying the sandal seedlings with suitable host



Open Discussion after the presentation



Closing remarks of the Director, IFGTB