IFGTB has been conducting research and extension activities in the states of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Union territories of Puducherry & Andaman & Nicobar Islands. As an important extension activity, the Institute has been organizing Tree Growers' Mela as a flagship programme in several strategic places in Tamil Nadu to spread awareness on tree cultivation using improved planting materials including clones. The main objective of Tree Growers mela was to create awareness among farmers on tree cultivation techniques and use of effective high yielding clones for increasing their farm income; besides improving their understanding on the wood marketing issues. Last year, the mela was successfully held at Tiruvannamalai and Jayankondam, wherein 1312 & 450 farmers were benefitted respectively.

ICFRE has been sanctioned a dedicated scheme entitled “Strengthening Forestry Research for Ecological Sustainability and Productivity Enhancement” from Compensatory Afforestation Find Act, 2018 (CAMPA) with a total budget outlay of 313.67 Crores. IFGTB organized two days Tree Growers’ Mela 2020 at Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 10.03.2020 & 11.03.2020 with support from CAMPA for the action plan 2019-2020 under the component “Operationlization of Forestry Extension Strategy and Action Plan of ICFRE”. IFGTB has a major stake in the implementation of AICRPs(research component of CAMPA) among all the other institutes of ICFRE. Out of the 31 projects, IFGTB has secured 25 AICRPs on nationally important research themes with 11 National Project Coordinators responsible for coordinating the implementation of the research projects. Besides AICRPs, two important components under the scheme viz., “National Programme for Conservation and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR)” as well as the extension component scheme as noted above is also sanctioned to IFGTB. It is in this background, the stakeholder meet like Tree Growers Mela assigns significance.
The mela was organised in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), KVKs & NGOs. The themes and identified target groups for the two days mela is as below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.03.2020</td>
<td>Clonal Farm Forestry for Increased Productivity</td>
<td>Registered farmers from wood based industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.03.2020</td>
<td>Smart Tree Cultivation for Increasing farm income and Green cover</td>
<td>Registered farmers of TCPL Scheme of TNFD &amp; members of Tree Growers Associations of Coimbatore, Erode, Salem &amp; Tiruppur District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More than 1000 tree growers, front line staff of state forest department of Tamil Nadu, KVKs, representatives of wood based industries, NGOs and members of Tree Growers Associations participated in the programme. The tree growers of 21 district of Tamil Nadu, Trissur and Pallakkad districts of Kerala and Union territory of Puducherry participated in the two days mela.

IFGTB had developed high yielding varieties of fast growing tree species such as Teak, Casuarina, Eucalyptus and Tamarind. The institute is also working on other tree species like Melia, Gmelina, Ailanthus, Thespesia, Kadamba, and Bamboos for higher productivity. The Clonal technologies developed by IFGTB along with the bio products were included in the thematic technical sessions. A team of scientists of IFGTB and invited forest based industries presented various concepts of plantation technology, availability of improved clones, pest and disease management and marketability of major identified species through interactive seminars & exhibition and the tree growers also got opportunity to share their experiences in tree cultivation.

Eight technical sessions mostly on “Cultivation practices of Tree Species” and “Timber Marketing and trade” were arranged for addressing the queries of the tree growers. These sessions focussed on the need for choosing appropriate tree species, improved planting / clonal material and package of practices for increased production and higher financial returns & on possibilities of better wood marketing. The wood based industries viz., Tamilnadu News Print and Papers Ltd (TNPL), Sheshashayee Paper Boards, Erode, ICAR KVK Avinashilingam, Karamadai, ICAR-KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, KVK, Tiruppur and KVK, Trissur (Kerala), Vanam India Foundation, Palladam, VETRY, Tiruppur and private nurseries participated to share their technologies and the wood based industry representatives took part in the discussions on procurement and marketing options for the farmers. Dr. S.
Murugesan, Director IFGTB presided over the inaugural session of the Tree Growers` Mela on 10th & 11th March, 2020.

**Day 1: 10.03.2020**

Shri. I. Anwardeen, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Salem circle & Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (TNFA), Coimbatore, will grace the Inaugural session. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS (Retd.), President OISCA International, TN Chapter & Formerly PCCF & HoFF, TNFD, & Dr. Seenivasan, General Manager (Operations), TNPL, Karur, graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The first technical session on “Cultivation practices of Pulpwood Tree Species” was chaired by Dr. N. Krishnakumar while the technical session on “Industrial wood procurement-Prospects & Challenges” was chaired by Dr. Seenivasan, General Manager, TNPL, Karur. Some of the important panellist included Shri. Pon Senthil Kumar, Pasumai Vikatan prominant journal of Agriculture and Agroforestry) and Dr. Ravi Kumar Theodore, Head Training and Extension division, Directorate of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University(TNAU). Besides the above technical sessions there were exclusive parallel sessions on cultivation practices for timber species and Integrated Pest & Disease management of tree crops. New publication of IFGTB namely “Cultivation of Neolamarckia cadamba” (Malayalam) authored by - Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist, IFGTB & Bio product - Bio Bacilin – Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist, IFGTB (Inventor) was released in Mela, 2020.

**Day 2: 11.03.2020**

Shri. Debasis Jana, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Coimbatore Circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD), graced the occasion and delivered key note address. Shri. K. Balasubramanian, Executive President, Vanam India Foundation, Palladam, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist, IFGTB chaired the session on “Cultivation practices of Timber Tree Species”. Shri. Naganathan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Erode Circle chaired the session on “Significance of Trees Outside Forests -Timber Marketing and Trade”. Besides the above technical sessions there were exclusive parallel sessions on cultivation practices for pulpwood tree species and Integrated Pest & Disease management of tree crops. Some of the important panellist included Shri. P. Kathirvel, IFS, Conservator of Forests, IFGTB, Shri. D. Venkatesh, IFS, DFO Coimbatore, TNFD and Dr. R. Alagesan, Programme Coordinator, ICAR-KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam. New
An exclusive exhibition on the tree cultivation technologies, clonal technologies, agroforestry models, nursery management, bio products, timber procurement and marketing options was arranged in the mela. Besides, IFGTB, the other major exhibitors included Tamilnadu News Print and Papers Ltd (TNPL), Sheshashayee Paper Boards, Erode, ICAR KVK Avinashilingam, Karamadai, ICAR-KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Pasumai Vikatan, Iyarkai Nalla Vazhu Maiyam(Natural & Traditional products), Thara blooms(Seeds & propagation materials) and AR seeds & flowers and private nurseries. A manual ‘Marasagupadi’ (Tree Cultivation practices - Tamil) published by IFGTB was given free of cost to all the participants of the mela. This training manual detail on the tree cultivation practices of selected and prioritised species for Tamil Nadu along with list of technical services offered by IFGTB, was compiled and published by Extension division of IFGTB. The mela was organised by Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Head, Extension. The two day mela was for the first time live streamed in YouTube & the entire proceedings of inaugural and technical sessions may be accessed in the video form through the links https://youtu.be/3PdKjQfJNns & https://youtu.be/QXv-P0oVgQ0 for the first & second day respectively.

Photos

<p>| Dr. S. Murugesan, Director, IFGTB during his inaugural address | ICFRE Best Institution Award (2018-19) for IFGTB |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Release - Book on “Cultivation of Neolamarkia Cadamba” (Malayalam) authored by - Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist, IFGTB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Release - Bio Product - Bio Bacilin - Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist, IFGTB (Inventor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Release - Book on “Malai vembu Sagupadi - Kala Vazhikatti” (Tamil), authored by - Dr. Rekha Warrier, Scientist, IFGTB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio-Product - MONA - 20 - Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Scientist, IFGTB (Inventor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dignitaries visiting the exhibition stall**

**Visitors in the IFGTB Stall**
Visitors in the stall

Scientists, IFGTB during the technical session

Parallel sessions at Auditorium
Farmers interaction during the technical session

During thematic discussions

During the Valedictory session
NEW COLLABORATION

Two govt bodies open tree growers mela, plan to grow over 1K trees

INSTITUTE of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) inaugurated a two-day long Tree Growers’ Mela 2020 on Tuesday in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Tamil Nadu Newprint and Papers Limited (TNPL). Over 1,000 tree growers in and around Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Tirupur districts would be sharing their experiences in tree cultivation during the programme.

As an important extension activity, the institute has been organising mela in several strategic places in Tamil Nadu to spread awareness on tree cultivation using improved planting materials including clones. The main objective is to create awareness among farmers on tree cultivation techniques. According to the press release, technical sessions on cultivation practices of tree species and timber marketing and trade would focus on the need for choosing appropriate tree species, improved planting, and the package of practices for increased production.

The wood-based industries including Tamil Nadu News Print and Papers Ltd (TNPL) and private nurseries would share their technologies in procurement and marketing options for the farmers. An exclusive exhibition on the tree cultivation technologies, clonal technologies, nursery management, timber procurement, and marketing options has been arranged in the mela. IFGTB has developed high yielding varieties of fast growing tree species such as teak, casuarina, etc. The institute, is one of nine research institutions of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change.
**The Hindu, 11.03.2020**

COIMBATORE

Tree growers’ mela evokes good response

**STAFF REPORTER**

COIMBATORE, MARCH 11, 2020 23:55 IST
UPDATED: MARCH 11, 2020 23:55 IST

More than 1,000 tree growers take part in the two-day mela

More than 1,000 tree growers from Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, and Salem participated in a two-day ‘Tree Growers’ Mela’ that concluded at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) here on Wednesday.

---

**The Times of India, 11.03.2020**

2-day mela for tree growers begins

Coimbatore: The two-day mela for tree growers got underway at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding here on Tuesday. On display are high yielding varieties of fast growing trees like teak, casuarina, eucalyptus and tamarind. Latest farming techniques and other forestry products like biofertilizers, growth boosters are also on display.

The mela, organized along with the state forest department, showcases high yielding varieties developed by the IFGTB and other varieties like kadamba and bamboos that the Institute is working on.

“We are also exhibiting various concepts of plantation technology, availability of improved clones, pest and disease management techniques and marketability of major identified species through interactive seminars & exhibition,” said a scientist. The mela has also called on a few successful tree growers to share experiences.

The focus of the seminar was on timber, with a special session on timber marketing and trade featuring in the schedule. “The sessions will focus on the need for choosing appropriate tree species, improved planting and clonal materials, package of practices for increased production and higher financial returns and possibilities of better wood marketing,” said a statement from the institute.

Besides several tree growers from the western region, representatives of wood-based industries like Tamilnadu News Print and Papers Ltd (TNPL), Sharon Plywood Industries, Century Plywood, KVK MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Vanam India Foundation, Palladam, VETRY, Tirupur and private nurseries are participating in the event.
The Manorama, 11.03.2020

11.03.2020

The Times of India, 12.03.2020

12.03.2020

Dist sees increase in forest cover over past two years

On Track To Achieve The Target Of 33.3% Forest Cover By 2030

Compared to the forest survey of India's report in 2017, the 2019 report showed that forest cover in Tamil Nadu has increased by 3.78%, in Chhattisgarh, it has increased by 3.19%.

Tamil Nadu Forest Department has increased its forest cover by 3.78%.

Malayalam News

Malayalam News
Tree growers’ mela evokes good response

More than 1,000 tree growers take part in the two-day mela

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

More than 1,000 tree growers from Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, and Salem participated in a two-day ‘Tree Growers’ Mela’ that concluded at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) here on Wednesday.

I. Anwardeen, Director of Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (TNFA), Coimbatore, and N. Krishnakumar, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, were the chief guest and guest of honour respectively at the event.

The mela was organised in collaboration with the Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and NGOs, a press release said.

Theme
The theme for the first day was ‘Clonal Farm Forestry for Increased Productivity’, which targeted registered farmers from wood-based industries. Technical sessions on cultivation practices and timber marketing were arranged to address the queries of the tree growers. An exhibition on tree cultivation technologies, clonal technologies, nursery management, timber procurement and products of IFGTB was arranged for the farmers at the event.

Award
During the inaugural event, S. Murugesan, Director of IFGTB, received an award for the best research institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), as IFGTB received the first rank among the ICFRE institutes in the country, the press release said.

The mela was organised by Extension Division of the IFGTB headed by Rajesh Gopalan, Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Extension Division, according to the release.

On Wednesday, Debasish Jana, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Coimbatore Circle), addressed the participants.
12.03.2020

Mathrubhumi, 12.03.2020

DIRECTOR
IFGTB

***************