

Webinar on
Role of Scientists and Science endeavours in finding solutions to combat COVID-19 pandemic
25th November, 2020 at IFGTB, Coimbatore

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, has organised a webinar on **“Role of Scientists and Science endeavours in finding solutions to combat COVID-19 pandemic”** on 25th November, 2020 at Coimbatore. COVID-19, relatively uncontrolled virus, spreads swiftly from human to human has become the pandemic and posed severe threat to the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions across the globe. Only science and scientific community can combat the virus and scientists around the world have been racing to find ways to combat COVID-19. With the need for debating this hot topic which needs vital attention towards the intervention of various research activities to come up with solution to combat the alarming threat COVID 19 pandemic, the webinar has been organised. Dr. N.Senthilkumar, Scientist F and organising secretary briefed the importance of the webinar in his introductory remarks. Shri Rajesh Gopalan has given overview of the webinar. Shri S. Senthilkumar, IFS, Group Coordinator Research of the Institute inaugurated the seminar and released the **“IFGTB’s Herbal Hand Sanitizer”**. In his inaugural address he highlighted the IFGTB’s contributions in finding solutions to combat COVID-19 particularly the diagnostic kit, research on cinchona, herbal drugs, hand sanitizer and antiviral mask.

The resource persons from National and International organisations delivered invited lecture on the subject viz., Dr. R. Rajesh Kumar, College of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Zhejiang University, China on CRISPR lab on Chip technology for COVID-19 diagnostics; Dr. K. Balakrishnan, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai on Immune Responses and Viral Vaccines; Dr. P. Azhagarasi, M.D(S), RVS Siddha Medical College and hospital, Coimbatore on Immune boosters for preventive health care in Siddha system of medicine to combat SARS CoV2 and Dr. Srikanta Goswani, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, West Bengal on Strategies taken by SARS-CoV-2 in evading host RNA decay machinery and its implication on the disease.

Shri G. Rajesh, IFS, Head, Extension Division, IFGTB, in his concluding remarks stated that the webinar is well conceived on the current pandemic situation with respect to the mechanism of SARS CoV2 invasion and establishment into the host cell, diagnostic tools, immune response and vaccines and finally the herbal drug to tackle the SARS-CoV-2 infection. Scientists, officers, technical staff members, research scholars, project students of IFGTB along with 70 online participants have participated in the webinar.



Inaugural address by Shri S. Senthilkumar, IFS GCR



Release of IFGTB's Herbal Hand Sanitizer



Invited lecture by the resource persons from various National and International organisations