

## **Visit of Dr. Sugatto Dutt, I.F.S., Head, Land Use Division, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai**

Dr. Sugatto Dutt, IFS, Head, Land Use Division, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu visited IFGTB on 09-03-2018 and Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB welcomed him and briefed about the research activities of IFGTB. He had a discussion with the Director, IFGTB and Principal Investigators of the following ongoing Research Projects funded by State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu:

1. Exploration of Potential Beneficial Microbes in different Forest and Agriculture Ecosystems in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu and Imparting Training cum Demonstration on Bio-fertilizer Production and Application in Nursery and Field.
2. Enhancing the productivity and rooting ability of important medicinal plants of *S. oblong* and *H. indicus*
3. Screening of International Germplasm of *Casuarina equisetifolia* for Enhancing Productivity and Rural Livelihood in Tamil Nadu

The concerned PIs briefed about the progress and important achievements of the projects made under them. Also, he visited the VAM bio-fertilizer production unit established at IFGTB Campus as part of the significant achievement in the implementation of the said project. Further, Dr. Sugatto Dutt suggested for extending the training programme on Bio-fertilizers not only to forestry sector, but also to other stake holders like SHGs, Tree Growers, Farmers, etc. For wider reach of low cost VAM bio-fertilizer production technology, he suggested to come up with a new proposal for other hilly areas like Kalvarayan Hills, Servarayan Hills, Pacchai Malai, etc. He also promised to provide suitable area for establishment of demonstration plot for medicinal plants in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Sugatto Dutt suggested to propose and submit new research projects for the next financial year (2018-19).



**Dr. Sugatto Dutt, IFS visiting VAM Production Unit established at IFGTB under SPC funded project**



**Dr. Sugatto Dutt, IFS discussion with Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB**