

**NOTE ON NATIONAL SEMINAR ON FOREST HEALTH
MANAGEMENT
(FHM-2012)
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
Coimbatore-641 002**

A National Seminar on Forest Health Management (FHM-2012) was organized by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding on the World Forestry Day on 21st – 22nd March, 2012 at Coimbatore. The Seminar was supported by the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. FHM-2012 brought together the Planners, Researchers, Forest managers, academicians, students, NGOs and other stakeholders associated with aspects of Salinity/Alkalinity and forest health, Drought and flood stress, Temperature stress (chilling, freezing, heat), Soil and forest health, Pests and their management, Diseases and their management, Weeds & Invasives and their management, Biological control of pests and diseases, Bio-prospecting for botanical pesticides, Macro & Micro nutrients management, Irrigation management, Biofertilizers including beneficial microbes, Breeding and Biotechnological tools for pest and disease resistance and stress tolerance on one platform, so as to examine the present status and chalk out future strategies for research and management. The seminar was attended by 180 delegates from different parts of the country, including the Lakshadweep islands.

Dr.P.J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India inaugurated the seminar and remarked that the Forest health management is always looked as crisis management. Most of the occasions the indicators such as pest and disease, physiological vigor, quality of soil, flowering, fruiting, CO₂ fixation etc., are missed or ignored to be noticed. Further he emphasized the need to move towards holistic approach to study the early effect of climate change and gear up to mitigate over the climatic effect. He also prompted that the forest is always signaling the bad effect of biotic and abiotic disturbances which need to be watched. He recalled that the complex system is more stable having the capacity to bounce back which should not be forgotten. If it is lost it would be very difficult to bring back.

He also expressed his concern about increase in Urbanization and commented that about 30% world population live in the city. He pointed out that the human development index in the rural India is very low. He appealed to preserve open space with greeneries as it is important for mental and physiological well being of human beings.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Karpagam University, Coimbatore and Member, Tamil nadu State Planning Commission in his presidential address observed that networking of various organization involved in research and development is lacking. He stressed the need for

niche based research network. He also highlighted the potentiality of utilizing solar energy in the country. Further he emphasized the need to identify and preserve the gene pool. He commented that socializing the technology is the need of the hour. He said that connecting the sun-gene-internet could be the future thrust. He stated that the Research organizations should have well equipped library with books, periodical and journals so that the researcher can improve their research aptitude and ability in better manner. He underlined to reorient our research initiatives in more responsible way.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB in his introductory remarks mentioned the importance of holding the seminar on Forest Health Management. Stressed about continuous monitoring mechanism pertaining to the pest, diseases and community structure. The water and Ecological cycles are also required to be monitored. The tree growers mela organized at the Institute provided information on the problems faced by the farming community in pests diseases management in nurseries and plantations. He also emphasized that the forest has to be looked holistically including the abiotic stress, invasiveness, nutrient management, reproductive system and evaluating the current status of permanent preservation plots.

Dr. A. Balu, Organizing Secretary welcomed the gathering and stated that the seminar on FHM -2012 aims to bring professionals not only involved in pests an diseases management hut also silviculturists, soil scientists, agronomists, geneticists and biotechnologists on a single platform to deliberate various issues relating to Forest health. This initiative would help the Forestry researchers to take stock of the current situation and also facilitate to identify the gaps and plan for a holistic future strategy for health management of forest ecosystems in the country.

Shri T.P. Ragnath, Group Coordinator Research, proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr.N.Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB delivering the introductory remarks



Delegates at the inaugural function



Dr.P.J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India delivering the inaugural address



Release of Souvenir



Lead Speaker delivering the speech at the technical session



Panel discussion during valedictory function