



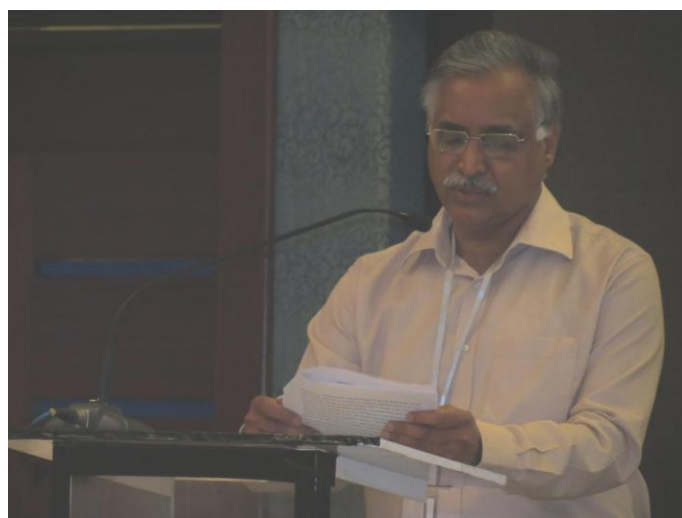
# Fifth International Casuarina Workshop

03-07, February 2014, Mamallapuram, Chennai

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organised Fifth International Casuarina Workshop at Mamallapuram from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Dr. V. Rajagopalan, Secretary, MoEF, Government of India inaugurated the workshop. During the inaugural address he stressed on the Green India Mission which focuses on the increasing the tree cover in India. Under the Mission, 5 million ha. area will be brought under green cover and in another 5 million ha. area of forest, the quality of vegetation will be improved. India is signatory to REDD+ programme. Through afforestation programmes, issues concerning the climate change will be addressed. Currently, 22% of the land area is under forest cover. To achieve the 33% of area under forest cover, he said the agro-forestry species like Casuarina assumes greater importance.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore invited the participants from different institutions from throughout the country and abroad. He explained the gathering about the long-term improvement efforts and commitment of IFGTB. He also narrated the importance of Casuarina in India.

Dr. Khongsak Pinyopusarerk, Honorary Fellow, CSIRO, Australia, Dr. Antonie Kalinganire, IUFRO Working party Coordinator, Mali and Shri. A.K Srivastava, Additional Director General of Forests, MoEF, Government of India addressed the gathering. Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority delivered special address. Dr. A. Nicodemus, Organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks.



Dr. V. Rajagopalan, IAS, Secretary, MoEF

The workshop was conducted as a part of the IUFRO working party activity with as objective of improvement for securing the rural livelihoods. Participants from Australia, USA, France, Thailand, Philippines, Mali, Senegal and Bangladesh.

The workshop was supported by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited, International Paper APPM Limited, BILT Tree Tech Limited and West Coast Paper Mills Limited.

During the workshop, Dr. V. Rajagopalan, Secretary, MoEF, also inaugurated the Thematic ENVIS Centre on Forest Resources and Tree Improvement and released the Abstract book of the workshop and a book on 25 years of Casuarina research.



**Shri. A.K. Srivastava, IFS, Additional Director General of Forests, MoEF**



**Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB**





**Dr. Khongsak Pinyopusarerk, Honorary Fellow addressing**

**Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority delivering special address**



**Dr. A. Nicodemus, Organizing Secretary proposing vote of thanks**