

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore - 641 002

Report of the Monthly seminar on

“Forest Rights Act, 2006”

A monthly periodical seminar on the theme **“Forest Rights Act, 2006”** was organized on 24th August, 2022 at IFGTB. **Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar**, Scientist-F, Genetics and Tree Improvement, seminar Coordinator conducted the training through offline mode. Around 120 participants including scientists, officers, technical staff and research scholars of IFGTB participated in the event.

Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-F, Head, Extension division, IFGTB welcomed the gathering including the guest speakers. He also gave a brief introduction about the significance of the periodical monthly seminar and the relevance of the theme and importance of FRA, 2006.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB delivered the inaugural address and in his opening remarks he highlighted the importance of FRA and its necessity to Scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers in detail.

Dr. D Rajasugunasekar gave a presentation on the overview and historical perspectives of FRA, 2006. The emphasized points of the lecture were on the details of forest cover, different types of forests, states having the highest and lowest forest cover in India, a detailed history of FRA, 2006 from the pre-colonial, pre-independence era and post independent to the present status with all examples and statistics, most famous revolts viz., Santhal tribe revolt (1855-56) and Munda tribal revolt (1895-91) and struggles faced by forest tribes and dwellers and stressed about the genesis of forest department and its role in the formation of FRA act, 2006. He also mentioned different acts, rights and their role in combating the problems faced by scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers. He emphasized that FRA, 2006 is the first of its kind in an attempt to undo the “historical injustice” done to tribals and other forest dwellers. He also mentioned that FRA implementation is being done by MoEF&CC with MoTA as a nodal agency. He also informed the house about the recent initiation of National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI), New Delhi, on 7th June 2022.

The invited speaker, **Shri, S. Kalanithi**, IFS, DCF, Forest Genetics Division, Coimbatore delivered a lecture on **“Experience sharing in Implementation of Forest Rights act, 2006 in**

Tamil Nadu". The speaker discussed on the importance of National Forest Policy, 1988 and FRA, 2006 including security concerns and forest governance. He presented in detail about the different chapters and different rights covered in each chapter about the benefits to STs and other forest dwellers from forest biodiversity and their utilization. The speaker also elaborated various evidential requirements for the determination of forest rights and implementation of FRA in Tamil Nadu.

The guest speaker, **Shri. C. R. Bijoy**, Public Intellectual, Coimbatore shared a presentation on "**Principles and various aspects of Forest Rights Act, 2006**". He discussed about about forests, protected areas, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries etc. The speaker briefed about the timeline of colonization from Pre-independence to the formation of FRA and beyond FRA, 2006 concerning rights and acts supported by the scheduled tribals and other forest dwellers in India. He emphasized that FRA, 2006 is an evolving experience and transfer of forest governance from the forest bureaucracy to the people and FRA is a movement to undo the historical injustice against forest dwellers. He informed that FRA has been formed mainly for STs and other forest dwellers and Forest rights act as a customary and traditional boundary to the people who depend on forests for their livelihood.

Scientists and scholars actively participated in the interactive session and the meeting end with formal vote of thanks given by **Shri G. R. Madhavaraj**, IFS, DCF.

