

**Interactive meeting with
Shri A.K. Verma, IFS, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Forest Department**

Shri A.K. Verma, IFS, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Forest Department visited the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore on 11.1.2013. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB in his welcome, thanked the PCCF for selecting the Institute to impart training on tree improvement aspects to the Research staff of the Karnataka Forest Department. Dr. B. Gurudev Singh, Scientist G and Head, Genetics and Tree Breeding Division gave an overview of the ongoing activities in research and extension. Research areas of possible collaboration discussed were in SPA establishment and management, seed orchards and clonal evaluation. Areas in which IFGTB could provide capacity building to the KAFD personnel were seed handling, nursery technology, biofertilizer application, tree improvement, FGR management, mainstreaming biodiversity and biotechnological tools in forestry research. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist D on the proposed project on "Establishment of south zonal germplasm bank of *Melia dubia*" seeking funding support from the Karnataka Forest Department. This proposal came up as a request from the Research wing of the Karnataka Forest Department during their visit to the Institute.



The PCCF congratulated IFGTB on the exemplary work carried out by the Institute in the field of tree improvement. He opined that in addition to support from IFGTB on research on species like *Gmelina arborea*, *Melia dubia*, *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Thespesia populnea* and *Ailanthus*, collaboration in other aspects like raising of pulpwood plantations mainly with the eucalyptus hybrids developed by IFGTB, *Acacia auriculiformis* trials for timber and extension and outreach related activities especially Van Vigyan Kendra needs to be developed. He requested the support of IFGTB in developing a heritage museum of forestry in Mysore. He requested that collaboration should also be in areas of future research like climate change. He stated that there

is an urgent need for a long standing collaboration and working relationship between IFGTB and the Forest Department on an MoU basis to handle issues related to forest productivity.



The meeting ended with a presentation of memento to the PCCF and a note of thanks by the Director, IFGTB.

