## Inauguration of VAM Bio-fertilizer production Unit facility established by Forest Pathology Laboratory, Forest Protection Division, IFGTB

The bio-fertilizers constitute beneficial microorganisms both symbiotic and free living forms present in the roots as well as rhizosphere soil of host plants that provide essential nutrients to the plants in easily available forms. Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (VAM) fungi belong to endomycorrhizal group (presently it has been referred as Arbuscular Mycorrhzial (AM) fungi). They are most prevalent and widely distributed in varied natural ecosystems. VAM fungi occur in almost all the families of flowering plants including forestry crops. Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has been doing research on VAM fungi and studied the occurrence and distribution of these symbiotic fungi in association with different forestry crops in varied ecosystems in Southern India. Potential isolates of these fungi have been identified after screening their efficacy on growth enhancement of economically important tree species in nursery and field. Accordingly, VAM Bio-fertilizer product named as IFGTB Tree Growth Booster has been prepared and made available to various stake holders. To meet the demand, large scale production of VAM Bio-fertilizer Unit facility has now been established at IFGTB Campus under sponsored project by State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. This facility has been inaugurated by Dr. S.C. Gairola, IFS, Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

















