



Dr. S. Kedharnath Memorial Lecture (KML – 2021)

29 November 2021



Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding has organised the eighth edition of Dr. S. Kedharnath Memorial Lecture on 29th November 2021 in honour of Dr. S. Kedharnath on the occasion of his 100th Birthday. He is considered as the father of forest genetics in India. The pioneering works initiated by him kickstarted the forest genetics and tree breeding research in India. His efforts have been instrumental in establishing the forest genetics section in the prestigious Forest Research Institute.

The programme started at 10:00 am with invocation by Dr. Kannan C.S. Warriar, Scientist-F with prayer song. Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-F, IFGTB welcomed the participants gathered online and offline. It was followed by lighting ceremony. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist –G & Head, FECC Division delivered the introductory address in which he shared the contribution of Dr. S. Kedharnath to forest genetics in India. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB and he emphasized the significance of Dr. S. Kedharnath's contribution to Indian forest genetics and mentioned about *Cassine kedarnathii*, a tree which has been named in honour of him. Shri. A. S. Rawat IFS, Director General, ICFRE delivered special address and highlighted the contribution of Dr. S. Kedharnath when he was working in Forest Research institute, Dehradun and stressed the importance of forest genetic research and appreciated the efforts taken by IFGTB in organizing such an event. It was followed by a special lecture on '***LTER Studies: Potential usefulness in forest functional ecology and conservation efforts***' by Dr. N. Parthasarathy, Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental sciences, Pondicherry University. In his lecture he discussed about the need for maintaining Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) plots for understanding functional dynamics of forests all over the world. He shared his field experience in LTER established in southern Western Ghats. He also mentioned the international and national efforts taken by various organizations and research institutes in Long Term Ecological Research in different forest types and stressed the importance of continuous support from Government and from different agencies. Mr. K. Rajnath son of Dr. S. Kedharnath thanked the organisers for this event. About 200 participants which included DDG's of ICFRE, Forest officers, scientists from various research institutions and technical and project staff of various ICFRE institutes were present during the memorial lecture. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-F, IFGTB.



Lighting ceremony



Presidential address by Dr. C. Kunhikannan



Introductory address by Dr. B. Nagarajan



Invited lecture by Dr. N. Parthasarathy



DG, ICFRE addressing through online



A view of online participants



A view of the participants



Another view of the participants