

**Report on  
Awareness meeting on Sexual Harassment of women at workplace**

**Institute Of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore  
13.08.2021**

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Women in India constitute fifty percent of the human resource. The role of women in society is vital for its progress, and their contribution to the development of the knowledge base and use of technology is essential if the millennium challenges are to be met. It is also important to support and stimulate women to involve in professional and scientific activities

In this backdrop, Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)-IFGTB,Coimbatore organized an awareness program on the theme “**Empowerment of Women in Science**” on 13.08.2021. A total of 110 participants including Officers, Scientists, Staff, Research fellows & students participated the awareness webinar both online and offline.

At the outset, Smt. R.G. Anithaa, member, ICC-IFGTB welcomed all guests and staffs of the Institute. Dr.Modhumita Dasgupta, Chairperson, ICC-IFGTB outlined the significance of the Sexual harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The role and responsibilities of the Internal Complaints Committee was also enumerated.



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB delivered the inaugural address and emphasized on gender equality and women empowerment. He accentuated on the need for mutual respect regardless of gender, age, ethnicity and religion. He emphasized the



requirement for positive interaction among all which is the cornerstone for all developmental processes. He informed the gathering that IFGTB strives to provide a safe environment to all its women employees and will continue to maintain gender equality in all Institutional activities.

Dr. Zeneta Roseline, Professor & Director, Department of Women Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore & Co-Chairperson of ICC-IFGTB during her address, gave insights into the genesis of the 'POSH' Act and the legal provisions under the Act. She emphasized on the role of ICC in the present era of gender mainstreaming and highlighted the different provisions under the Act to provide safe working environment for women employees. She urged all to be vigilant and raise their voice against any form of sexual harassment.



The special invitee for the awareness program, Dr. (Ms) Chandish R Ballal, Former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru & Former Project Coordinator, AICRP on Biocontrol gave a detailed presentation on the topic "**Empowerment of Women in Science**". She highlighted the noteworthy contribution of women researchers in different streams of science which paved the way in bridging the gender gap and breaking the glass ceiling of gender discrimination. She emphasized the need for competence and leadership quality in women to counter the societal 'perception'. The awareness webinar ended with vote of



thanks by Smt. R.G.Anithaa, Member, ICC-IFGTB to the guests, organizers and staffs of IFGTB.