

**REPORT ON SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE
&
TAMIL NADU FOREST PLANTATION CORPORATION (TAF CORN), TRICHY**

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)), has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation (TAF CORN), Tiruchirapalli on 19th July 2019 for collaborative research in plantation forestry. Shri. R. K. Upadhyay, IFS, PCCF, HoFF & Chairman, TAF CORN graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore and Shri K. V. Giridhar, IFS, Managing Director, TAF CORN signed the MoU in his presence.

IFGTB has been working towards development of new varieties, management and silvicultural techniques to maximize productivity of natural and planted forests under different ecological considerations and changing environment; and thereby catering the forestry research and development needs of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry and Lakshadweep. IFGTB is also implementing long term breeding programmes of Eucalyptus, Casuarina and Teak which has resulted in establishment of Seed Orchards, Vegetative Multiplication gardens and field trials propelling genetically improved seeds and clones of above species. The improved planting material deployed in large scale commercial plantations has resulted in increased wood production.

TAF CORN was formed on 13th June 1974 with the objective of raising, maintain and harvesting forest plantation on sustained yield basis on commercial scale to meet the demand of local industries and people. The main activities of corporation are raising Eucalyptus and Cashew plantations every year with other species namely Casuarina and Teak planted on smaller scale. Besides, increasing productivity in forests, TAF CORN also contributes for conservation of soil and moisture in planted forests and creates employment for rural population. TAF CORN through this MoU has taken on board IFGTB as its research collaborator in the field of PLANTATION FORESTRY. The MoU aims to have a collaborative research / activities between the two organizations in the following broader areas.

- a. Introduction of new clones of Eucalyptus for higher productivity in different regions of the Corporation.
- b. Improved silvicultural practices for higher productivity of the Eucalyptus plantations in different regions of the Corporation.
- c. Studies on developing Long Term Ecological Monitoring (LTEM) plots towards estimating the ecological impacts and carbon sequestration potential of the Eucalyptus plantations across age - climatic locations of TAF CORN.

- d. Studies on soil physical/chemical properties, nutrient dynamics and other profiles across different regions and their impact on the plantation productivity. Development of Soil Health Report Card for different regions of TAFCON would be main objective of this study.
- e. Documentation of socio-economic benefits from Eucalyptus Plantations including livelihood support.
- f. Studies on the feasibility of deploying alternative species for different agro-climatic locations for species diversification.
- g. Capacity building of staff and field functionaries of TAFCON on nursery and plantation technologies.
- h. To collaborate for any other field based research and publications viz., books, training manuals and other IEC materials etc.

Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Head Extension welcomed the guests and gathering, and he presented the background and objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB emphasized the need for forging partnerships between organizations to work on mandated research areas of both the institutions. He also presented that the MoU addressed three broad areas viz., productivity enhancement of plantations, monitoring and evaluation studies and capacity building and documentation. Shri K. V. Giridhar, IFS, Managing Director, TAFCON emphasized the need for collaborative research in areas identified in the MoU on a time line basis for increasing the productivity targets of TAFCON in the long run. He also stressed that the MoU institutionalizes the long standing association of IFGTB and TAFCON.

Shri. R. K. Upadhyay, IFS, Chairman, TAFCON requested to give greater impetus for increased productivity in Plantation Forestry and incorporating alternative species for achieving the mandated targets for the corporation. He stressed on the need to explore diversifying plantations through incorporation of indigenous high timber value species viz., teak, sandal and red sander in TAFCON for maximizing productivity and returns for the corporation. Chairman, TAFCON also requested that the research initiatives through MoU should be intended to find solutions to the existing problems and thereby improving efficiency of organizations for benefit of the society in large. Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, Head Extension presented the Vote of thanks to the Chair, guests and gathering.

**Director
IFGTB**



Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB presenting his remarks on the MoU



Signing of MoU



Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB exchanging MoU with Shri. K.V. Giridhar, MD, TAFCON in the presence of Shri. R. K. Upadhyay, IFS, Chairman, TAFCON & team IFGTB



Shri. K.V. Giridhar, MD, TAFCON sharing his thoughts on the MoU



Shri. R. K. Upadhyay, IFS, Chairman, TAFCON during his concluding remarks