

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

Coimbatore

Research Advisory Group Meeting 2018

Inaugural Session

08 October 2018, 10.00 hrs

Dr Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB welcomed the esteemed members of Research Advisory Group with his introductory remarks on the objectives of the meeting towards promoting forestry research for all stakeholders especially farmers. The objective of RAG is also to seek guidance from stakeholders involving scientists, academia, field foresters, industries, farmers and NGOs. He added that the new project proposals particularly require strategic guidance to carry out demand driven high quality research programme. Director gave a detailed presentation highlighting the ongoing research in IFGTB. He touched upon activities for doubling farmer's income, livelihood, Digital India, Swach Bharath and building climate change resilience in forest ecosystems. He elaborated about the release of high yielding clones of IFGTB, wind break clones for protection of agri-crops, and transgenic for enhancing salt and pest tolerance. Director further listed out the products brought out by IFGTB, patents registered and the action taken for commercialization of products. He recalled the success of Tree Growers Mela conducted regularly by IFGTB. He added that IFGTB is identified as ENVIS centre for forest genetic resources and tree improvement. The success of Green Skill Development Programme carried out by IFGTB was also mentioned. Director also mentioned about the recent Guinness World Record made by 550 students by isolating DNA from bananas using the customized DNA isolation kit developed by IFGTB. Director concluded by highlighting the new initiatives started at IFGTB, MoUs signed with partner institutions and various trainings conducted by the institute.

Dr R.V.Varma, former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board suggested that regular entrepreneur meet and wide publicity is required for reaching the stake holders because forest products are very specific.

Dr Devaraj, I.F.S., (Retd.) added that correct trends and market position of products like timber should be intimated to stake holders through systems like "*whatsapp group*". For this the socio economic and extension divisions should be strengthened for proper institution – industry linkages.

Dr Z.Abraham, Principal Scientist (Retd), NBPGR said that plant based dyes from other indigenous tree species may be explored.

Dr Vimal Kothyal, ICFRE representative welcomed the gathering on behalf of the ICFRE.

Dr Murugesan Group Co ordinator (Research), IFGTB outlined the methods of reviewing and grading the new project proposals based on indicators and the thrust areas.

The inaugural session came to a close by 11.00 hrs.

RAPPORTEUR

Dr. John Prasanth Jacob



Dr Mohit Gera, *Director, IFGTB* chairing the RAG meeting



View of the RAG members



View of the RAG members