

Report on Dr. S. Kedharnath Memorial Lecture (KML-2020)
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore

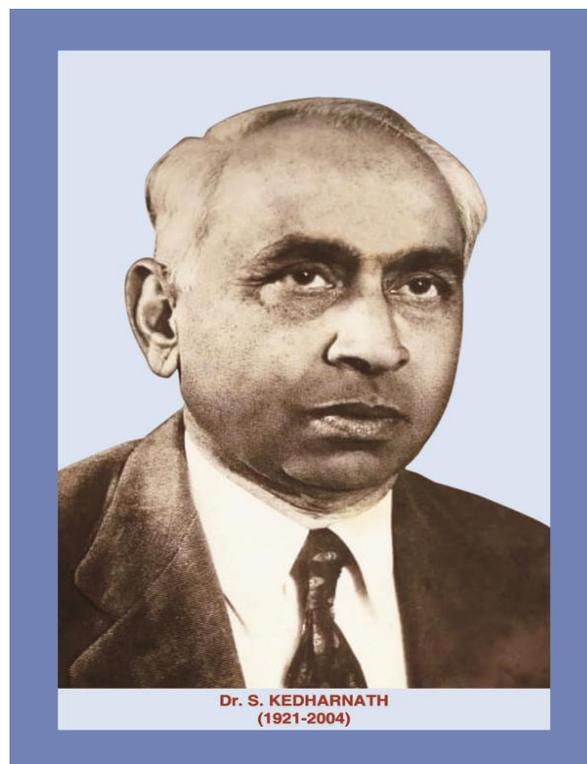
In honour of the pioneering contributions and services of Dr. S. Kedharnath, the Forest Geneticist, in the field of tree improvement, Memorial Lecture is organized in the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore since 2013. Dr. S. Kedharnath pioneered in implementing scientific and systematic Genetic Improvement Programmes in forest trees such as Teak, Sandal, Pine, Poplars and Eucalypts in our country and was bestowed with the title as the “*Father of Forest Genetics in India*”. The 7th edition of Dr. S. Kedharnath Memorial Lecture (KML-2020) was conducted in IFGTB, Coimbatore on 18th December 2020, through online platform in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

The programme was started with lighting of the lamp and offering Floral Tribute to Dr. S. Kedharnath by Dr.C.Kunhikanan, Director of IFGTB. Dr.Kannan C.S.Warrier, Scientist, IFGTB welcomed the participants. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist, IFGTB gave a brief introduction about Dr. Kedharnath Memorial Lecture. Dr.C.Kunhikanan, Director delivered the presidential address. Shri S.D.Sharma, Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE inaugurated the Memorial Lecture and addressed the participants. He highlighted the details of high yielding clones of various tree species released by different institutes of ICFRE. He also informed that ICFRE has established the state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in its institutes to conduct advanced research in various fields of Forestry.

The Memorial Lecture was delivered by **Dr. M. Sanjappa**, Ph.D., FNA, FASc, FNASc, **Former Director, BSI; CSIR Emeritus Scientist & INSA Senior Scientist**, Mahatma Gandhi Botanical Garden, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru-560065 on the topic "**Floristic Diversity in India : An Overview**". He gave an account of the rich floristic

diversity as well as unique ecosystem diversity harboured by the country. He pointed out that the documentation of higher plants have been going on satisfactorily, but the exploration and documentation of lower groups like algae, lichens, bryophytes and microbes are at a slower pace, due to lack of specialists on these groups and hence underscored the need for concentrating more on their exploration and documentation. He also observed that several plant species of the country are either unutilized or underutilized, especially the plants having aesthetic value and hence stressed the need for bringing such plants under cultivation, so as to use them as ornamentals, instead of cultivating exotic ornamental species.

The programme was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr.A.Rajasekaran, Scientist, IFGTB. The Memorial Lecture was attended by about 190 participants including scientists, forest officers, research personnel, students and other invitees, both from within the institute as well as organizations outside.



Dr.S.Kedharnath – The Father of Forest Genetics in India



Dr.M.Sanjappa, ex Director, BSI, delivering the Memorial Lecture



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