

**Report on the Signing of Memorandum of Agreement Between
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore & M/s Shivashakti
Biotechnologies Limited, Hyderabad**

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)), has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **M/s Shivashakti Biotechnologies Limited, Hyderabad** on 28 March 2022 for developing a **Working protocol for the micropropagation of mahogany (*Sweitenia macrophylla*)**.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore and Dr. Mohan Raj Bogu, R&D Head and Scientist, Sivashakthi Group of Companies, Hyderabad, Telangana signed the MoU.

At the IFGTB, clonal technology has been developed to root cuttings from coppice shoots of mature trees of different species. To complement this and ensure superior germplasm perpetuation, tissue culture technology using explants from the standing trees is also adopted. The technology serves to support the future demand of high yielding plantations. The Institute has developed micropropagation protocols for plantlet production for bamboos, teak, eucalypts, medicinal trees etc. The present proposal is based on the requirement of M/s Shivashakti Biotechnologies Limited, SR Nagar, Hyderabad to develop a protocol for micropropagation of mahogany (*Sweitenia macrophylla*).

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB emphasized the need for forging public-private partnerships. Dr R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Co-ordinator Research, recalled the long-standing association of IFGTB with Sivashakthi Group of Companies and emphasized the need for collaborative research in areas of tissue culture. She also elaborated on the tissue culture related activities ongoing at the Institute. Dr N.V. Mathish, Scientist F and Head, Plant Biotechnology Division, lauded the event as an example of bringing in better visibility to the Institute and Council through such collaborations. The team, who would be taking up the work comprising Dr Rekha R Warriar, Scientist F, Mrs Mahalakshmi, Technical Officer and Mrs K. Shanthi, Chief Technical Officer were also present.

Director
IFGTB

