

IFGTB-VVK- KVK Meet, Kerala 2014

The first interactive meeting of Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore with Van Vigyan Kendra and Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Kerala was held at KVK Thrissur on 9th January, 2014.

The following officials attended the meeting.

1. Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK Thrissur
2. Dr. Rahumath Niza T J, Subject Matter Specialist, Plant pathology, KVK Thrissur
3. Dr. P. Prameela, Subject Matter Specialist, Agronomy, KVK Thrissur
4. Dr. Mary Regina F., Subject Matter Specialist, Agrl. Engineering, KVK Thrissur
5. Dr. Vishnu Savanth, Veterinarian, KVK Thrissur
6. Shri B. Ajith Kumar, PRO, KAU, Thrissur
7. Shri Winston S. Suting, APCCF, Social Forestry, Kerala Forest Department
8. Shri Prem Chander, ACF, Social Forestry, Thrissur
9. Dr.N.Krishna Kumar, Director, IFGTB
10. Dr.J.P.Jacob, Scientist 'E', IFGTB
11. Dr.C.Buveneswaran, Scientist 'E', IFGTB
12. Dr.R.Anandalakshmi, Scientist 'D', IFGTB
13. Dr.A.Karthikeyan, Scientist 'D', IFGTB
14. Dr.Rekha R Warriar, Scientist 'D', IFGTB
15. Dr.N.Senthil Kumar, Scientist 'D', IFGTB
16. Dr.Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist 'D' (In-charge, VVK Kerala), IFGTB

Dr. John Prasanth Jacob welcomed the gathering. In his introductory remarks Dr. N. Krishnakumar, *Director*, IFGTB stressed the need of VVKs and KVKs working together, blending forestry and agriculture, to strengthen and benefit the stakeholders. Trees have potential values for livelihood support. Along with the concept of food security, wood security is also necessary in the era of climate change. There is tremendous pressure on forests for fuel wood also. To divert this pressure plantations are established under a programme called Trees outside Forests (ToF). He reminded that trees should stand as a support to agriculture. 25 years of research in IFGTB has helped in providing packages for tailor made, improved seedlings with reduced rotation periods. In view of the presence of KVKs in all the districts of Kerala, IFGTB felt that this tie-up of VVKs with KVKs can deliver technologies and products developed in the field of forestry to the farmer. This will also, in the long run, enhance the tree cover in the country. He hoped that this preliminary meeting will pave the way for larger collaboration in the future.

Shri. Winston Suting, APCCF, Kerala Forest Department said that the mandate for Forest department is conservation. People's participation can go a long way in forest conservation. He quoted the example of Parambikulam Wild Life Sanctuary which has reaped many awards and recognition where participation by tribals has led to efficient conservation. Though trees need to be judiciously removed for developmental activities, KFD has taken initiatives to distribute 87 lakhs of seedlings through institutions, religious bodies and residential associations. He stressed

the need for seed certification and called upon institutions like IFGTB to work for seed certification. Networking is another area which can lead to tremendous success in activities linking stakeholders. He wished that this interactive session will give strength and vitality in bringing farmers to tree cultivation along with agriculture.

Prof. Ranjan S. Karippai, *Co-ordinator*, KVK, while highlighting the activities of KVK said that he is looking forward for collaboration with institutes like IFGTB with technologies developed for farmers. He explained the mandate of KVK like (i) on farm trials, (ii) front line demonstrations and (iii) trainings. Dr. Kannan CS Warriar briefed the KVK staff on the various activities being undertaken at IFGTB.

The following were the areas identified for collaboration with IFGTB:-

- Tree cultivation to enhance green leaf manure use in agriculture.
- High cost of fodder and shortage of grazing land demands use of fodder tree species as fencing or intercrop for fodder needs of livestock.
- Introducing tree species like neem as a part of homestead farming to help in organic farming and go in line with the organic policy of the state.
- Exposure visits for farmers along with authentic knowledge transfer needed for transfer of technologies.
- Multipurpose Trees that can go along with food security to be identified and promoted.
- Demonstration and training programmes for tree cultivation.
- KVK can help in identifying farmers who can maintain tree crops also.
- An area of 0.5 ha would be demarcated in the KVK, Thrissur for tree crops.
- Tree cultivation to be popularised through schemes like "Kudumbasree" region wise.
- Region wise agroforestry models to be prescribed.
- Involving tribal community also in tree cultivation in hilly areas.
- Advice on control of pests/diseases both in agriculture and forest trees.
- Identify methods of popularising biopesticides and use of biofertilizers.
- Methods for quality tree seed supply.
- Decentralization of tree nursery for farmers.
- NTFPs and medicinal plants can be popularised through farmer.
- Identify industries for tie up with farmer for product buy back agreement.
- Identify the site matching for specific trees.
- Indigenous species like *Thespesia* to be popularised among farmers.
- Land for demonstration and convincing farmer with quality planting materials, supply and support through technologies.
- Dissemination of information through proper networking.
- Importance of mangrove species to be sensitized among farmers

Wrapping up the proceedings Dr. N. Krishnakumar, *Director*, IFGTB said that there are many good things that can be shared between KVK and VVK. Quality seed availability can be made possible by establishing community seed orchards in each block or panchayats. IFGTB has made progress in these lines and similarly in mangroves species management, few species have been brought back through species recovery research and attempts can also be made for mangrove

land scape mangement. Issues can be brought out with a tripartiate meeting involing VVK, KVK and the Forest Department.

He cautioned that fodder and fuel is a challenge and because of which lot of biodiversity is lost due to fodder and fuel collection from forest areas. We have to look for tree species with multiple utility. KVKs can be a platform for IFGTB to bring out products produced through a “Direct to Consumer” Scheme.

Though forestry is not a direct factor in livelihood amelioration, 280 species of trees have direct bearing on livelihood. In addition to this trees for different terrains besides hybrid forestry need to be popularised. Clones that can go along with agricultural crops need to be identified. Through these measures we can put appropriate wood in to food security. He requested KVK to assist in having a demonstration plot for trees and a germplasm garden to infuse trees into farmers land. This would encourage Trees outside Forests (TOF) and strengthen livelihood of farmers.

As an initial step a small launching project can be proposed with location wise nursery establishment. Also a combination of vegetables with tree demo plots can also be planned. Director IFGTB invited KVK group for a return visit to IFGTB.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Kannan Warriier.



