

**REPORT ON VISIT OF SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO
IFGTB COIMBATORE**

Shri. C. K. Mishra, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Government of India visited Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 23.03.18.

After a brief introduction by Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB, Secretary, MoEF&CC was taken to Institute's Facilities. Dr. R. Yasodha, Head of Division, Plant biotechnology explained in detail on the importance of the Molecular Breeding in Eucalyptus in the Molecular Genetics laboratory. Subsequently, he visited the Genomics laboratory and Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta explained the projects implemented in the laboratory. It was highlighted that division had undertaken research on sequencing the genome of two indigenous species viz., teak and sandal wood. Additionally, a detailed briefing on technology development, field of application and commercialization of the ArborEasy™ DNA isolation kit was made to the Secretary MoEF&CC. In the tissue culture laboratory, the activities on mass clonal propagation of teak were explained by Dr. Rekha Warriar.

Secretary, MoEF & CC also visited the Vegetative Propagation complex consisting of mother bed chambers with stock plants of Casuarinas, Acacias, Eucalypts, *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Melia dubia* and Teak under intensive management conditions. The process of selection of clones, licensing for nursery growers, generation of clonal propagules and supply to end users was explained. Secretary enquired about the demand and supply of quality planting stock. It was explained that the demand is enormous and it is partly met through the licensed suppliers as well as from IFGTB.

Director, IFGTB made a brief presentation on the salient works carried out by IFGTB and proposed action plan vis-a-vis the National priorities. His presentation focussed on the products and technologies developed by IFGTB and efforts taken for popularising the technologies and proposed plan for transfer of technologies for various stake holders. During the interaction with the Heads of the Division, Officers and Scientists, Secretary highlighted on need for identifying forestry research themes for greater adaptability and scalability. Similarly he also stressed on exploring opportunities for private funding for forestry research. He also laid focus on the need for exploring themes for '*Adaptation Research in forestry*' under the Climate Fund.

On the occasion the Secretary, MoEF & CC also released the natural pigment named "**Tara Red**" a red natural pigment extracted from red tamarind fruit, *Tamarindus indica* var *rhodocarpa*. The natural colorant "**Tara Red**" has been successfully added in jam preparation. The pigment can also be used as a natural colorant for food, beverages, cosmetics and textile.

Later Secretary, MoEF&CC visited the Gass Forest Museum in the campus and was impressed by the quality of maintenance of the specimens and artefacts. His remarks in the visitor book read as *“What a wonderful experience. Very well kept and maintained. A place to take lessons from history - and that too such a rich one. Great work, Keep it up ...”*



Director, IFGTB welcoming Shri. C. K. Mishra, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.



Left: Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta explaining the works carried out in Genomic Laboratory
Right : Dr. Rekha Warriar briefing works in Tissue Culture Laboratory



Left: Dr. S. Murugesan, GCR explaining Bio products in Bio Prospecting Lab
Right : Dr. Mohit Gera making Institute presentation



Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Government of India releasing “Tara Red” a red natural pigment extracted from red tamarind fruit, *Tamarindus indica* var *rhodocarpa*



Dr. R. Yasodha explaining on the activities in Vegetative Propagation Complex



Secretary, MoEF & CC visiting Gass Forest Museum, Forest Campus, IFGTB