

## Inauguration of Tree Rich Biobooster/ Coir Pith Disc Making Machine

“Tree Rich Biobooster/ Coir Pith Disc Making Machine” newly installed in the institute was inaugurated by Shri. R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Director on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at IFGTB, Coimbatore. Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist E and PI of the project demonstrated the whole process of making the disc. Heads of the Divisions, Scientists, Forest Officers, WSHGs from Palamalai, Parliyar and Keel Pillur tribal hamlets; Research Scholars, press and media were present during the inaugural function. Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, New Delhi sponsored the machine under the project “Transfer of products/technology on biobooster to Irular tribes in forest fringe villages of Coimbatore, Tamilnadu: An alternate source of livelihood support”. The main aim of the project is to transfer the biobooster technology developed by IFGTB to the Irular tribal Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) of Forest fringe villages in Coimbatore; train them to develop biobooster disc/pellet and establish marketing channel for their livelihood support. The tree rich biobooster is purely an organic mixture (coconut fibre duly decomposed, mixed with FYM, treated with beneficial microbes and addition of neem cake), enriched with nutrients and protect plants from pest and diseases. It is an alternate to potting mixture (Sand soil and FYM), light weight, cost effective, less water usage, easy to transport as compared to the conventional potting mixture.



