

FIELD FUNCTIONARIES TRAINING ON BAMBOO UNDER NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION

Under the centrally funded project of National Bamboo Mission, a training programme for officials – numbering 100 - from the Horticulture Department of Government of Tamil Nadu was conducted during January to March 2012 at **Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore**. The training programme was funded by Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA), Chennai – agency carrying out National Bamboo Mission activities in the state of Tamil Nadu. The training programme was conducted in 3 batches (Batch 1: 30/01/2012 to 03/02/2012; Batch 2: 05/03/2012 – 09/03/2012 & Batch 3: 12/03/2012 – 16/03/2012) to officials at the level of Assistant Director of Horticulture (ADHs), Horticulture Officers (HOs) and Assistant Agriculture Officers (AAOs).

The training programme was of 5 days duration each, with a mixture of class room lectures, nursery demonstrations and visit to bambusetum, trial plots, industrial visits apart from interaction with bamboo farmers. Lectures covered diverse range of subjects viz., overview of National Bamboo Mission and other Government of India schemes in bamboo sector, bamboo botany & taxonomy, Bamboo introductory trails carried out in Tamil Nadu, bamboo macro and micro propagation techniques, bamboo silviculture with case studies, bamboo pest and disease problems, bamboo – its potential uses and economics of bamboo cultivation. A nursery demonstration on different macro propagation techniques was also imparted. Field visits included visits to bamboo nursery, & bambusetum within Forest Campus, Coimbatore and bamboo trial plots at Field Station, Bharathiar University Campus, Coimbatore apart from a 2 day field trip to Kerala to visit Bamboo Ply factory at Angamally, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, KFRI Bambusetum at Velupadam and Athirapally Falls in Vazhachal Forest Division. Interaction session with a leading bamboo farmer was also organized for the trainees to obtain first hand information on various aspects of bamboo cultivation. Towards the end of each training programme, a feedback session was conducted by Director, IFGTB to solicit the views of the trainees on the training programme to ascertain if the training had been useful for their skill upgradation. The trainees were issued with a certificate on the completion of the training programme.



Inauguration of training programme for Horticulture officers.



Demonstration of macro propagation techniques at IFGTB Nursery.



Trainees interacting with bamboo farmer at Vilamundi, Tamil Nadu.



Trainees trying bamboo machinery at Bamboo Ply Pre-processing centre, Angamally.



Trainees in front of bamboo ply factory, Angamally.



Trainees at Bambusetum, Velupadam