

## IFGTB'S STAKEHOLDERS MEET WITH KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT

The third Stakeholders meet of IFGTB with the Kerala Forest Department was held at the headquarters of the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri T.M. Manoharan, IFS, on 25.8.2011 and attended by the many senior officers who gave valuable inputs / problems which need to be addressed by IFGTB immediately. IFGTB was represented by a team of scientists headed by the Director.

Following a presentation on the research and extension activities of IFGTB of relevance to the State of Kerala, and elaborate discussions, the following points emerged.

1. Joint research programmes for revisiting all the permanent preservation plots laid out in Kerala and establish new preservation plots across forest types, management of weeds in plantations of teak, control of invasive alien species like *Michenia* and wattle, afforestation of lateritic soil in Kannur and Kasargode districts of Kerala
2. Consultancy mode programme for delineation of ~1000 ha SPAs of teak in the existing plantations, maintenance of seed orchards and clonal orchards.
3. Research to recommend package of practice for raising of teak plantations. An area of 30 ha to be demarcated for this purpose and include interventions at seed, soil, silviculture, genetics levels. This would serve as a model for large scale plantations.
4. Species trials of FGRs on economically important and ecologically significant trees. Forest Department of Kerala has assured support for laying such trials by providing lands in all the districts and also in abandoned central nurseries. These trials would later serve as demo centres.
5. Research on Livelihood support to tribals in NTFP harvesting, value addition and management.
6. Mechanisation in forestry practices including planting, weeding and harvesting considering the acute shortage of labour in Kerala.
7. Provide training to foresters on thinning protocols and quality planting stock production.
8. Research on soil enrichment to improve nutrient status of plantations.
9. Opportunities for identifying and establishing SPAs for various indigenous species.

The *modus operandi* for the joint programmes are to be prepared within a period of one month for their early implementation.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



