

Brain Storming Discussion for Preparing Perspective Plan for Remote Sensing and GIS Activities to be taken up at IFGTB, Coimbatore

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has recently established a Geomatics Lab covering Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing facilities in the Forest Research and Information Management (FRIM) Division of the institute. A brain storming discussion was organised in the Conference Hall of institute on 9th July 2014 to prepare a perspective plan for Remote sensing and GIS activities to be taken up by the Geomatics lab of the institute to support plantation and Agroforestry.

The experts for the brain storming discussion included Dr A.R.R. Menon, Retd. Principal Scientist, KFRI, Dr Vijaykumaran Nair, Retd. Principal Scientist, KFRI, Dr R. Sivasamy, Professor and Head, Department of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Dr Karunakaran, Principal Scientist, Landscape ecology Division, SACON. Apart from the outside experts, all the officers, Scientists and Research Officers of the institute participated in the discussion.

During the introductory and welcome address **Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB** informed that Remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems can play a big role in management of Forest Genetics Resources (FGR) of the country. He also informed that these technologies can play active role in production forestry through spatial mapping and biomass estimation of various farm forestry/agro- forestry plantations. He also informed that the institute would undertake research programmes using GIS and RS in collaboration with State Forest departments, Forest Survey of India (FSI), Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Kerala Forest Research Institute and other reputed institutions/organisations in the country. The Director has requested all the participants to share their experiences, prioritize short and long-term goals and help in drawing a road map for various activities to be taken up by the Geomatics lab in next ten years.

Sh. T.P. Raghunath, IFS, GCR presented the ongoing research activities of the institute. He emphasised the need for collaborative research within the various divisions of the institute and with other institute/organisations of the country. He also suggested that all the scientists/PI of various research projects of the institute should share the information available with them on various tree/plant species for creation of spatial database which will help the entire institute in all the current and future research activities.

Sh. R.Vivekanandan, Scientist-E & Head, Forest Research Information Management (FRIM) Division gave a detailed presentation on the various activities being currently undertaken in the Geomatics lab including the spatial mapping and biomass estimation of Casuarinas and Eucalyptus plantations in different districts Tamilnadu. **Dr A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-D, FRIM Division** presented the proposed future plans of the Geomatics Lab. The experts invited for the discussion also presented the various applications of GIS and Remote sensing in forestry.

A detailed discussion was held and experts shared their past experiences and suggested some short and long term goals for the division including the facilities to be upgraded and strengthening the human expertise of the division. **Dr A. Rajasekaran** summarised the various prioritized activities and action plan suggested by the participants for the Division.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB in his concluding remarks suggested that all the Scientists/Research officers and other staffs of the institute should make collaborative projects with the FRIM Division and in future all the research projects of the institute should include GIS and RS activities. **Sh. R.Vivekanandan, Head, FRIM division** proposed vote of thanks.



A view of the brain storming discussion



Another view of the brain storming discussion



Some of the participants of the discussion



Invited experts for the discussion



Participants during discussion