

A Report on the Visit of

**Dr Ashwani Kumar,
Director General,
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
To
IFGTB, Coimbatore**

The Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dr Ashwani Kumar visited IFGTB on 19th and 20th November 2014. This is his first visit to IFGTB after taking over as DG, ICFRE and he was warmly welcomed by the Shri R.S. Prashanth, Director, Scientists, Officers and Staff. The Institute's ongoing research work and the achievements made so far were reviewed by the DG during a meeting of Director, Scientists and Officers of IFGTB after listening to a detailed presentation on the activities of the Institute on 18.11.2014. Since the DG himself is a specialist in the discipline of Genetics and Tree Breeding, he showed a keen interest in the genetic improvement programmes of different species. On the whole he appreciated the achievements made by IFGTB in the recent past and the good reputation it has among stakeholders within the country and also among researchers abroad. He encouraged the Scientists to continue the ongoing programmes more vigorously and make greater achievements in the near future.

He released a biopesticide named EntoFight Nasa and a biocontrol agent Tricho – K. A book on Grasshopper was also released by him. The DG gave away the Certificates for the 17 clones of Casuarina and Eucalyptus released by the Institute to the team of Scientists who developed them. Later DG addressed a meeting attended by all the Staff members of the Institute. He assured them speedy addressing of the grievances of the Staff and also improve the fund availability for the Council. He also impressed upon the Staff to intensify their contributions towards achieving the targets of the Institute. He presented mementos to the senior Staff Members commemorating the Silver Jubilee celebrations of IFGTB. He also met representatives of various Staff Associations and listened to their representations and assured speedy necessary action by the ICFRE Headquarters.

The Director General declared open the newly constructed buildings of the Forest Genetic Resource Network Complex in the Forest Campus on 20.11.2014. He requested all the Staff Members to put the new facility to full use and make greater contributions to achieve the goals of the organization. He also declared open a new facility of vegetative propagation through mini-cutting technique. The DG also paid a visit to the century old Gass Forest Museum in the Campus and reviewed the ongoing renovation works.



