

**Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
Coimbatore**

Licensing of Casuarina Clones to International Papers – APPM Limited, Rajahmundry

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has been undertaking long-term research work to increase wood production in plantations to meet the different end uses like timber, poles, pulpwood, fuelwood and other non-timber products. In particular IFGTB has developed fast growing seed and clone varieties of Acacia, Casuarina and Eucalyptus capable of increased pulpwood production in a short rotation of 3 to 5 years. The Institute of has been supplying high-yielding seeds from its intensively managed seed orchards to tree growers like farmers, industries and forest departments.

IFGTB has so far released 25 clones of Casuarina and Eucalyptus with different superior characters like fast growth, wind-hardiness, drought tolerance, insect attack tolerance and ability to grow in sodic soils. These clones are multiplied in large scale and supplied to farmers and other tree growers. Some of the clones have been made available to different industries and research institutions under Material Transfer Agreement for including in their farm forestry programmes.

In India, intellectual property right for plant varieties is protected through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. A designated body called Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) is implementing the Act by registering new plant varieties to confer intellectual property rights to the institution / individuals who developed the variety. Casuarina and Eucalyptus are the only forestry crops notified by the Authority for registration following the legally mandatory test of Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability. IFGTB is in the process of filing applications with the PPVFR Authority to obtain registration for its new clones.

The International Papers – APPM Limited has an extensive farm forestry programme in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana through which it supplies high quality planting material of Casuarina to farmers at subsidized cost. In order to introduce new fast growing clones in their farm forestry programme, the Company has entered into a License Agreement with IFGTB to commercially propagate five clones of Casuarina (CJ 7, CJ9, CJ 10, CH 1 and CH 2) developed by the institute and supply to farmers. The agreement was signed by Mr R.S. Prashanth, Director, IFGTB and Mr Deepak Khare, Vice President – Forestry, IP-APPM in a meeting held at IFGTB on 26.06.2015. Dr B Gurudev Singh, Group Coordinator (Research), Dr A. Nicodemus, Scientist and Mr Manoj Sharma, DGM, IP-APPM also participated in the meeting.

The Company has paid a one-time license fee for the non-exclusive license to propagate these clones for a period of ten years. IFGTB Scientists will closely interact with field managers of IP-APPM to monitor the performance of these clones in farmers' plantations and provide technical support to obtain maximum wood production. Such a tripartite cooperation between producer-farmers end user-industries and researchers will help in taking the research results to the field and bring in additional income to farmers and increase raw material availability to the industry.



Signing of License agreement between IFGTB and International Papers for commercial propagation of Casuarina clones.



Mr R.S. Prashanth, Director, IFGTB handing over a high-yielding clone of Casuarina to Mr Deepak Khare, Vice President, International Papers