



## *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*

### **“Women empowerment through capacity building on development of “Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB)” an organic waste based bioproduct to tribal WSHGs”**

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has conducted one day training programme on **“Women empowerment through capacity building on development of “Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB)” an organic waste based bioproduct to tribal WSHGs”** to the Irular tribes on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022 at in Kanthavayal, Sirumugai, Coimbatore Forest Division, Coimbatore as a celebration of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The programme aimed to showcase the technology/product **“Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB)”** an organic waste based bioproduct developed by IFGTB using coir pith and municipal waste composts. “Tree Rich Biobooster” an organic waste based bioproduct developed using coir pith waste compost and other municipal waste composts such as vegetable wastes and flower waste along with bio wastes can be used as a comprehensive potting mix. It has been developed by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. IFGTB has decided to transfer the technology to improve the livelihood of the Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) of Irular tribes who wholly depend on forests for their income.

The Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB) is a potting mixture alternate to conventional potting media for nursery, kitchen garden, terrace garden and other similar applications developed by IFGTB as an outcome of the research activities. It is a tree biomass based biobooster. The coconut fibre waste which is the main raw material for the development of TRB is available in the surrounding areas of the hamlets. Tribes inhabiting forest fringe villages traditionally depend on forest for their livelihood support in order to provide an alternate source of income, WSHGs was formed and their members were imparted capacity building on the Tree Rich Biobooster (TRB) development utilizing tree biomass wastes. The programme was organised under the project “Development of Tree Rich Biobooster using wood biomass and municipal wastes involving tribes for their livelihood support: A part of Swachh Bharat Mission” sponsored by National Geospatial Programme Division of DST (erstwhile Natural Resource Data Management System Division, DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi. A total of 120 Irular tribes habitat in the Palapatti, Lingapuram, Uliyur, and Kandhavayal tribal settlements were participated in the programme. A detailed demonstration was given to the tribes on compost making out of solid wastes especially flower waste, vegetable waste, weed and other wastes which is one of the components in the development of TRB product. Various aspects of the development of the bioproduct “Tree Rich Biobooster” which included selection of raw materials, processing, compost making, preparation of blocks, and evaluation of their efficacy were demonstrated in detail with all necessary materials. Hence, IFGTB imparted training cum capacity building on development of TRB and established market channel by which they may get alternate source of income for their livelihood. It may help them to lead descent lifestyle.

The programme has been made in such a way that the tribes have to enhance their skill through such trainings to become entrepreneur and to generate their own source of income. The consumers of this product are farmers, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations and plantation companies who may benefit through increased productivity.

