Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 28.08.18 to promote and accelerate the progress of research and training in various disciplines of agricultural and forestry research and education through execution of a mutually agreed Work Plan. As follow up to the work plan; Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Coimbatore of IFGTB in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Karamadai had organized training for popularization of Windbreak clones of Casuarina released by IFGTB.

IFGTB, Coimbatore had released five superior clones (WBC-1, WBC-2, WBC-3, WBC-4 and WBC-5) of Casuarina junghuhniana for providing protection against windstorms to horticultural and agricultural crops. Annual crop loss worth crores of rupees was reported in the country due to windstorms. This crop loss due to heavy wind was more frequently being reported in banana plantations. To efficiently manage this recurrent problem, IFGTBs Casuarina based windbreak tree varieties planted on the periphery of farm lands had shown great promise to slow down the speed of wind and minimize the damage to cash crops. During Agri Intex 2019 held at CODISSIA, Coimbatore, maximum queries were related to Casuarina Windbreak clones; which included availability of windbreak clones, method of planting, productivity and economics.

In this background, the Extension division of IFGTB organised this one day training for catering to the needs for the banana growers in Karamadai, Sirumugai and Annur cluster of Coimbatore district, in light of recent damages reported to banana crop due to the winds. This one day training was organised on 24.07.19 for Banana growers on the theme “Windbreak Tree Varieties” as part of extension
activity under the Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Coimbatore, with support of Silviculture & Forest Management division and in collaboration with KVK, Karamadai. A total of 62 farmers participated in the above said training.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB. The other dignitaries include, Dr. Gowri Ramakrishnan, Director (SAETI), ICAR-KVK, Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Head, SFM, IFGTB, Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Head, Extension, Dr. Kumaravadivelu, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR -KVK, Karamadai & Dr. C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist, IFGTB.

Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Head Extension welcomed the gathering and gave overview of the integrated training programme - objectives and expected outcomes. Dr. Mohit Gera, Director IFGTB inaugurated the training and made Lead Presentation on “Smart Tree Cultivation & Increasing Farm income & Green Cover”. He narrated that since time immemorial forests served as foster mother for agriculture and how trees have provided humankind with numerous services and benefits. He also added that On-farm tree planting played a significant role in providing both economical and environmental benefits. He highlighted the technologies developed by IFGTB and also emphasised the need of VVKs and KVKs working together, blending forestry and agriculture, to strengthen and magnifying the dissemination of technologies to various stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Gowri Ramakrishnan, Director, Sri Avinashilingam Educational Trust Institutions (SAETI) welcomed the idea of networking IFGTB and ICAR-KVK for jointly organising the training. She also assured to step up the collaborative activities in the days ahead. Dr. Kumaravadivelu, Head & Scientist, ICAR-KVK, Karamadai also spoke on the occasion. During the occasion, Windbreak clones WBC-2 was handed over to Dr. Gowri Ramakrishnan, Director (SAETI), ICAR-KVK and to the farmers from Annur and Pollachi. A brochure on “Windbreak Tree Varieties” (Tamil) of IFGTB was released by Director, IFGTB. Farmers were also taken to Idikkarai, Field Station, Coimbatore for On Farm Trial demonstration of IFGTB Windbreak clones.

Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Head, SFM, IFGTB presented the “Problem Analysis” which was followed by experience sharing of the damages due to wind by the
farmers. Shri. N. Ravichandran, Bagathur village, Shri. P. Devaraj, Muthukallur village, and Shri. T. N. Rangasamy, Pappanaickenpalayam village of Coimbatore district narrated their experiences.

Dr. Buvaneswaran, Scientist, IFGTB handled the technical sessions on “Introduction to concept of Windbreaks” & “IFGTBs initiatives for Tree Varieties for Windbreak”. He showcased the technology of windbreak clones and clones released by IFGTB to the banana growers. He explained the design, package of practices and cost economics of the plantation model. The technical session was followed by “Experience Sharing” by the beneficiaries of Windbreak Clones. Shri. Sivaganeshan, Boluvampatty Village and Shri. Mohan, Anaikatty village shared their experience in growing the IFGTB windbreak clones in their farm land. Coimbatore. During the open house discussion the farmers raised their queries which were addressed by the beneficiary farmers and by Dr. C. Bhuvaneswaran. The participants also witnessed the exhibits displayed viz., products developed by IFGTB and its publications.

In the afternoon session, the participant farmers were taken to On-field demonstration of Windbreak clones at Idikarai, Thudiyalur, Coimbatore district. Shri. Ragupathy, farmer beneficiary of IFGTB Windbreak clone had established the windbreak clone demonstration plot in his farm land. He explained to the participants on the establishment, post planting care and advantages of the windbreak clones. The participants appreciated the field trip with engaging discussion with the beneficiary. The training programme ended with Vote of thanks by the farmer association to the organisers and the farmer beneficiaries.

Director
IFGTB
Director, IFGTB during his lead presentation

Interaction of Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB with farmers

Dr. Gowri Ramakrishnan, Director (SAETI), ICAR-KVK during her opening remarks

Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Head, SFM delivering his talk on the Problem Analysis

Handing over of Windbreak clones to farmer from Pollachi

Release of “Windbreak Tree Varieties” brochure by Director, IFGTB
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants Registration</th>
<th>Banana growers of Sirumugai, Karamadai, Annur Cluster attending the training</th>
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<td>Participants visiting IFGTB Stall &amp; viewing IFGTB Publication</td>
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<td>Dr. Buvaneswaran, Scientist, IFGTB presenting the technical session</td>
<td>Farmers interaction during the training</td>
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Participants observing Winbreak clones of IFGTB at the On Farm Field Trial at Idikkarai, Coimbatore

PRESS REPORTS ON THE TRAINING PROGRAM

DINAMALAR, METTUPALAYAM, 25.07.19
குருத்துறையில் செய்து பெறப்பட்டுள்ள பேச்சிக்கான

‘குருத்துறையில் முனையான’ போராட்டம்

வெளிப்புற திசையிலேயே விளையாடப்பட்டது