

IFS REFRESHER COURSE ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT IFGTB

A five day refresher training programme for the Indian Forest Service officers on "**Forest Genetic Resource Management**" is organized at the institute from 16.9.2013 to 20.9.2013, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. A total of 29 IFS officers at the level of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officers from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odhisa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir attended the said training programme.

The Training programme was inaugurated on 16.9.2013. Shri R.S. Prasanth, IFS, welcomed the participants and elaborated on the threats associated with loss of biodiversity. Highlighting Forest Genetic Resource Management Network as an initiative for biodiversity conservation, he informed the house about the lead role played by IFGTB for the same.

Dr. K. Palanisamy, the course co-ordinator gave an overview of the training programme which is the third consecutive training imparted by IFGTB on the subject to IFS officers. Explaining the constraints faced in the country in relation to FGRs he stated that due to lack of proper documentation, we are unable to spell out the resources available in the country. He explained the evolution of FGRMN in IFGTB and the plan for NBFGR in India. He gave an outline of the course.



Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, IFGTB, delivering the presidential address, informed that the State of World's forest genetic resources is to be released by the FAO in 2014. The draft report reveals that out of the 80,000 tree species in the world, 8000 are endangered and only about 450 are being used in tree improvement programmes. Drawing attention to the various constraints in management of FGRs in India, he stated that lack of baseline information, absence of a nodal focal point for information on FGRs, poor extension and capacity building activities for personnel involved in forestry activities, poor financial support and no clear cut rules and regulations for germplasm exchange are the major impediments in FGR management. Despite these, all the sectors have been trying their level best to contribute to the growth of the sector. To keep pace with other countries, India needs to adopt advanced technologies to conserve and protect the FGRs. He requested the participants to incorporate a section on FGRs in Biodiversity Circle of Working Plans. He sought a co-ordinated, co-operative and collective effort from the Forest Departments for effective implementation of the FGRMN.



The Chief Guest, Dr. S. Nagarajan, Former Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authorities (PPV & FRA), Government of India inaugurated the Refresher Course by lighting the lamp. He released the training manual and proceedings of the National seminar on Forest Health Management. In his inaugural address, he narrated how in the ICAR system the plant genetic resources section started as a small unit under the illustrious Dr. B.P. Pal

and which has grown up to be an internationally recognized bureau, the NBPGR. Today, with advancements in technologies, at the end of seventy years of establishment of the Directorate of Agriculture, food security is assured. Forestry sector has greater responsibilities towards protection of these genetic repositories. He elaborated on the National FGR conservation and Usage Plan prepared by him as the Chair of Excellence and said that it would form the basis for the establishment of the NBFGR in the country.



Shri Maria Dominic Savio proposed the vote of thanks.