

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Coimbatore

One Week Training Course on Forest Genetic Resource Management for IFS officers from 4th to 8th July, 2022

The Institute had organized one week training course on Forest Genetic Resource Management for IFS officers from 4th to 8th July, 2022. A total of 15 IFS officers from different states participated in the training programme. The program initiated with invocation of Nature by Dr.Kannan C.S. Warriar. Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Training coordinator, Scientist F welcomed the gathering and highlighted that IFGTB has successfully conducted eight trainings on FGR management and this is the ninth training. She stated that IFGTB has been designated as the National Focal Point for FGRs by FAO, ENVIS centre for FGRs & Tree Improvement and Nodal Centre of Excellence for South India to co-ordinate the National Program for conservation and development of FGRs funded by CAMPA-MoEF&CC. She highlighted its note worthy contribution in preparing and submitting the country report on FGRs for inclusion in State of World's FGR (SoW FGR) published by FAO. She gave an overview of the training module, the topics covered and field visits under the training program.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB in his address briefed about the significance of Forest Genetic Resources (FGRs) and the need for their conservation. During his remarks, Director highlighted the National program on Forest Genetic Resources as an initiative for biodiversity conservation and informed the house about the lead role played by IFGTB for the same. He sought a co-ordinated, co-operative and collective effort from the Forest Departments for effective implementation of the FGR program.

The Chief Guest, Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore inaugurated the Training Course by lighting the lamp and released the training manual. On the inaugural address, she stated that Forest Genetic Resources is the fundamental requirement for the genetics and tree breeding studies. She also emphasized about FAO reports on the threats of food plants, soil health, rivers and its ecosystem. She also insisted upon the improvement of knowledge on lesser known tree species and conservation of wetlands. She also suggested the conservation of FGRs in sanctuaries and preservation plots for sustainable utilization and need to have adequate knowledge on biodiversity and also elaborated on the threats associated with loss of biodiversity. She also insisted that State Forest Departments who are the custodians of the forests of our country, are playing crucial role in *in-situ* conservation and their support to FGR programme is indispensable. Dr.D.Thangamani, Scientist proposed the formal vote of thanks and the inauguration ended with National Anthem.



Lighting of inaugural lamp & Release of training manual by Dr.V. Geethalakshmi,
Vice -Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

The main course of the training programme started with a presentation by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB on role of IFGTB in forestry research followed by which Dr. R. Anandalakshmi presented a topic on Conservation and Management of FGRs. The other topics includes economic gain of FGRs by Dr. A. Nicodemus, Germplasm Collection and Conservation in Seed Bank at CSIRO-Australia by Dr.David Bush, Genetic Resource Collection and improvement of Sandal by Dr.V.Sivakumar, Molecular characterization of FGRs by Dr.Ani A. Elias, Conservation and use of natural Rubber Genetic Resources in India- A success story by Dr.C.Narayanan, Role of Forest Seed Bank in Conservation of FGR by Dr.R.Anandalakshmi, Genetic improvement & conservation of important FGR species-*Thespesia populnea* by Dr.Kannan C. Warriar, *Neolamarckia cadamba* by Dr.A.Vijayaraghavan , *Dalbergia latifolia* by Dr.D.Thangamani, Mangrove Forests in India: Conservation and Sustainable Management by Dr.K.Kathiresan, Reproductive behaviour and conservation strategies by Dr.B.Nagarajan, Status of Bamboo Genetic Resources in India by Shri. Maria Dominic Savio, Effective Health & Stress Management by Dr.Shilpa Shah, APFORGIS & Application of GIS for conservation of FGRs By Dr.Rekha R.Warrier, Plant Genetic Resources: Policy and Governance by Dr.Sunil Archak, Access to FGRs & benefit sharing by Dr.K.P.Raghuram and Tree Genetic Resources and Ecosystem services by Dr.N.K.Krishna Kumar.



Interactions during the sessions & Field visit to IFGTB research station

Field trips were arranged daily which included visit to IFGTB field germplasm in research station near Siruvani, visit to VMG and laboratories of IFGTB, visit to genetic resource of Teak at Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Topslip and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve with night stay over, visit to State seed centre and Seed bank, Coimbatore. During the last class room session the participants made a presentation on FGR management and shared their experience in handling FGRs at their respective states/UTs, and the session was chaired by Dr.N.Krishnakumar, IFS (Retd.).



Address by Field Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve & Visit to interpretation centre, Anamalai Tiger Reserve



Field visit to Teak Seed Production area, Topslip & Field visit to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

The Panel discussion on “Improvement in the working of Forest Departments – need for career development through training and improvement of skills” and Valediction was conducted on 8th December, 2022 chaired by the Chief Guest Dr.N.Krishnakumar, I.F.S. (Retd.) & Chairman-State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Chennai. The chief guest in his opening remarks stated that FGRs plays a crucial role in maintaining ever changing climate change and they are the important aspects in sustainable development goals of United Nations. He also mentioned that in this “Era of Ecosystem restoration using FGRs” connectivity between FGRs and its role is crucial for forest departments. Henceforth, skill development and capacity building is needed for Forest Officers to maintain FGRs. The chair has also insisted the forest officers to plan their career goals effectively by setting Principle, Policies, Procedures, Participation, Partnership and Progress (6Ps). He also insisted that now being an “Era of Economic Liberalization” the government expects from forest officers to work close towards private sector and it is possible by acquiring proper capacity building. As FGRs are important and it’s being discussed globally, Forest officers need to keep in pace with international, national and regional problems and all should go in tune with policies of the government. He also informed the officers to have individual capacity building and institute level capacity building through collaborations with research institutes like IFGTB and to have a proper interface between forest officers and scientists. He stressed that skilling and self interest in learning about FGR play a vital role in forestry service and sustainable utilization and management of forest resources. The participants appreciated the training module and gave a good feed back. The Chairman distributed the certificates to the participants and the training course was successfully concluded with vote of thanks by the Training Co-ordinator Dr. R.Anandalakshmi, Scientist-F, IFGTB.



Valedictory function –handing over certificate



Group photo- IFS training 2022 at IFGTB