

**One-Week Compulsory Training Course on
Forest Genetic Resource Management
for IFS Officers
From 26-30th November, 2018**

The Institute had organized one week Training Course on “Forest Genetic Resource Management” for IFS officers from 26-30th November, 2018. A total of 16 IFS officers from different States participated in the training programme. Dr. K. Palanisamy, Training Coordinator, Scientist G & Head of Forest Genetics Resource Management Division, IFGTB, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. In his welcome address he stated that the Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) supports the livelihood of humans, and also added that FAO is coordinating the FGR programme at global level in 86 countries including India. He stated that IFGTB is one of the nodal centres for FGR, and prepared the country report on Forest Genetic Resources, which had been published by FAO as State of World’s –FGR (SOW-FGR). He highlighted the need for conservation, documentation and sustainable utilization of FGR in the country and the necessity for strong coordination between ICFRE Institutes and SFDs to carry out the FGR programme. He also mentioned that IFGTB has successfully conducted 6 trainings on FGR management for IFS officers and this is the 7th training.

Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore in his address briefed about the status of FGR at National and International level. He informed that though 8000 tree species are important world wide, only 700 tree species are under improvement programme, and in India improvement work is being carried out for 145 tree species. He also informed that *in situ* conservation is important and state forest departments are the key stakeholders. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Former PCCF & HoFF, TNFD and former Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore, the Guest of Honour stated that FGR must be linked with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) so as in Japan for effective and successful implementation of FGR Management. He mentioned about the need for prioritizing of species at national and regional level for FGR activities, and IFGTB had prioritized 30 economically and environmentally important tree species for FGR programme which can be relooked and updated with more native tree species. He emphasized the need for establishing National Bureau of Forest Genetic Resources (NBFGR) in the country.

Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS, PCCF, Wetland, Assam Forest Department, speaking on behalf of participant mentioned that FGR is a vast and evolving field, and effective FGR management strategies are needed for the proper conservation and restoration of the species.

Shri. Saibal Dasgupta, IFS, Additional Director General of Forests (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, Chief Guest of the occasion insisted about the importance of inventorization and documentation of forest resources, need to concentrate on core forestry, latest initiatives taken by MoEF & CC to promote Trees Outside Forest (TOF) and need for cohesive action among stakeholders. He also informed that networking with state forest departments who are the repository of forest resources is very much essential. He highlighted the need for strengthening the extension activities and benefit sharing for FGR conservation and sustainable utilization. In his remarks he also mentioned that it is essential to develop value chain for wood so that farmers would be benefitted and volunteer to participate in sustainable use of FGR. The inaugural session ended with formal vote of Thanks by Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist, IFGTB, Coimbatore.



Release of Training Manual by Chief Guest

The main course of the training started after the Inaugural function. As per the schedule there were 15 presentation on FGR by experts, 4 field visits and one group presentation by the participants during the one week Training programme. Eminent Scientists, Professors and IFS officers from various organizations and IFGTB made presentations and interacted with the participants. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Former PCCF & HoFF, TNFD, delivered his speech on "Forest Genetic Resources - National perspective". He stated that FGR is vital for the country, the research carried out on FGR is meager and there is a threat to FGR, and the

conservation is need of the hour. He mentioned that forester needs to be proficient about the FGR, prioritization of tree species and genetic diversity. Dr. K. Palanisamy made a presentation on overview of FGR, action plan and the ongoing FGR activities like germplasm collection, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and documentation. The IFGTB Scientists highlighted the selection, assemblage of genetic resources and experimental trials maintained in different locations in Southern India for important timber, pulp wood and oil yielding tree species.



Presentation on FGR Management

Dr.N.Sivaraj, NBPGR, Hyderabad made a detailed presentation on Collection, Conservation, Characterization, Evaluation and Documentation of agricultural crops at NBPGR which will become a model for forestry. The role of seed bank in conservation was explained by Dr.R.Anandalakshmi. The characterization of germplasm through morphological, biochemical and molecular markers; Application of Geoinformatics in FGR management were also presented by IFGTB Scientists. Dr.Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB highlighted the likely impacts of climate change on FGR and discussed strategies to secure the genetic material. In addition, the conservation and management of genetic resources of Mangroves and Bamboos were delivered by external experts. Dr.R.V.Verma, Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board talked about Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in India. The participants were divided into three groups and each group made a presentation on the topics namely (1) Documentation of FGR (2) Conservation of FGR- *in situ* & *ex situ* and their sustainable utilization and (3) Vulnerability of FGR and adaptation strategies which was followed by discussion. Four field visits have been arranged during the

Training period. The participants visited the germplasm conservation of important tree species established by IFGTB at Karunya field station.



Visit to FGR Conservation area, Karunya Research Station

Field visit has also been made to Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Topslip, Tamil Nadu and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. The activities at Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve were presented by Field Directors of TNFD and KFD. They also visited the seed production area of Teak at Topslip.



Visit to Seed production area of Teak at Topslip, TN

The participants were exposed to Biotechnology and Bioprospecting laboratories in the Institute where hands on experience on DNA isolation and development of forest products

were given. Demonstration for mass multiplication of clones of important timber and pulpwood species was made in the nursery. The participants also visited the Ramiah gene bank of agricultural crops at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

The Panel discussion and valedictory session were held in the afternoon of 30th November 2018. It was presided by the Chief Guest Shri Ganesan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF, Tamil Nadu Forest Department. The participants gave their feedback about the training in which they thanked and appreciated the Institute for organizing the training on FGRM successfully, and it was a new outlook for a practicing forester.



Distribution of Certificates

The chief guest in his remarks addressed the participants about the rules and regulations that need to be excised as a field forester and about tackling various management issues by employing the findings of research successfully. He motivated the participants to give their fullest contribution to FGR conservation and sustainable utilization. Director IFGTB summed up the recommendations drawn in the training programme. The Chairman distributed certificates to the participants, and the Training course was successfully closed with vote of thanks by Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist-F, IFGTB.