

## **TRAINING ON TREE BORNE OILSEEDS FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

The Training on Tree Borne Oilseeds for economic and environmental benefits was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore by training co-ordinator Dr. R.Anandalakshmi, Scientist-E. This training was funded by Karnataka Forest Department. The beneficiaries of this training program were farmers/ tree growers, nursery entrepreneurs and NGOs. The objective of the training was to create awareness and popularise TBOs like Neem, *Calophyllum* and *Pongamia* among stakeholders for cultivation and better utilisation.

The traditional use of TBO has been mainly for manufacture of soap, lighting purposes, besides use in the paints and varnishes and medicinal purposes. Recently TBOs are gaining popularity for biodiesel production and as Pure Plant Oil (PPO) as biofuel which are alternatives to fossil fuels. This training aimed to popularise TBOs like Neem, *Calophyllum* and *Pongamia* among stakeholders for cultivation and better utilisation for economic and environmental benefits. The training on Tree borne oilseeds for economic and environmental benefits was inaugurated by Dr.Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB. A brochure in Tamil on *Calophyllum inophyllum* was also released during the inauguration. Twenty-three participants comprising Farmers/ Tree growers, Nursery entrepreneurs and NGOs from various parts of Tamil Nadu attended the training. Topics on economic and environmental importance of TBOs mainly *Azadirachta indica*, *Pongamia pinnata* and *Calophyllum inophyllum*, their seed sources, tree improvement and their application for harvesting higher productivity from TBOs, seed handling and processing for oil extraction, nursery raising and insect/pest management, seed certification and avenues for income generation from TBOs were covered under the training by resources persons from IFGTB namely Dr.R.Anandalakshmi, Scientist-E, Dr.K.Palanisamy, Scientist-F, Dr.V.Sivakumar, Scientist-F, Dr. John Prashanth Jacob, Scientist-F and Dr.A.Vijayaraghavan, Scientist-E. As a part of the training, the participants visited Sarvodaya Oil Mill at Annur to have first hand knowledge on seed processing, oil extraction and soap making. They also visited a TBO demo trial laid by a progressive farmer Mr.Shanmuganathan at Kallipatti near Gobi deploying *Calophyllum inophyllum* clones supplied by IFGTB. He shared his experience with participants on TBO cultivation and value addition. The technologies on seed processing, seed grading, grafting of TBO species and nursery raising has also been demonstrated to the

participants. In the valedictory session, Director, IFGTB gave an insight to the farmers about role of tree species of medicinal importance in mitigation of climate change and importance of tree farming. The training program concluded with excellent feedback from the participants who requested to conduct more such programs for the benefit of the farming community. The program ended with distribution of participation certificates.

