

Proceedings of the fifth monthly seminar for research scholars

The fifth monthly seminar for research scholars was held on 06.02.2019 at 4.30 PM at IFGTB. The meeting was presided over by the Director, IFGTB, Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS.

Mr. Utchimahali, JRF, FECC Division, presented the topic “Managing mangroves: implications of biotic and abiotic stresses” He explained in detail about the importance of mangroves and their diversity and distribution together with the anthropogenic threats of this ecosystem. He detailed on the species recovery programme of *Ceriops decandra*, a globally Near Threatened (IUCN 3.1) mangrove distributed in the Asia-Pacific region. The species flowers and fruits throughout the year and is pollinated by mud dwelling non-social bees. The establishment of this landward mangrove is hindered by reduced freshwater flow, pollinator behaviour and their visitation pattern, hyper salinity and change in soil matrix. Research at IFGTB revealed increase in pollen sterility, flower and embryo abortion, etc. Species recovery programme of IFGTB initially aimed at comprehending some of the biotic and abiotic stress *viz.*, habitat diversion, induced hyper salinity due to shrimp farming, etc. responsible for its population reduction. Following this, both controlled pollination and vegetative propagation have been tried to assist the recovery of the species in three locations.



Mr. Utchimahali making a presentation on mangroves

Mr. Chidambaram, JRF, FGR Division, elaborated about the FGRM programme in Teak genetic resources. He introduced the concept of Forest Genetic Resources (FGRs) and the need to conserve the FGRs in India. Focussing on teak, he stated that India houses one of the richest genetic resources of Teak in the world with 1.5 m ha plantations, 8.9 m ha natural forests, 5100 ha SPAs and 1100 ha CSOs. At IFGTB, he is associated with documentation of morphometric data related to leaf, fruit, seed, bark etc. He has visited 202 plantations and 40 natural populations spread over Tamil Nadu and Kerala, he informed the gathering. Discussing on his observations, he mentioned that very poor regeneration was recorded in Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves; while good growth in plantations was recorded in Sadivayal and Topslip and slow growth in Yercaud, Salem.



Mr. Chidambaram presenting his work on teak

Mr. Kuralarasan, JRF, FECC Division, presented his work on *Swietenia macrophylla* an exotic timber species native to the American continent. He gave a detailed summary on selection and documentation of CPTs, collection, processing and standardization of germination of seeds for ex-situ conservation, wood related information, vegetative multiplication and standardization of clonal technology, progeny trial establishment, etc.



Mr. Kuralarasan making a presentation on mahogany

The Director appreciated the research scholars for giving a holistic view of the subjects they are currently working on. There was active participation of the scientists and other research scholars also. The Director also provided tips for enhancing presentation skills. Mrs. A.R. Sakthi, Mr. Judin Jose and Mr. A. Vinothkumar were identified as the speakers for the next meet.