

Kovai forest genetics centre chosen as best in south zone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has selected Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme Centre (EIACP) at the ICFRE- Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore as best EIACP centre in the southern zone for 2023-24.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, chief scientist, who was the EIACP coordinator during 2023-24 and currently serving as the director of Kerala Forest Research Institute at Peechi in Thrissur, said the EIACAP centre was chosen for raising awareness about environment. "We sensitised 90,000 students. Likewise, 130 candidates became entrepreneurs. Also, out of 212 students got opportunities in various private companies as project assistants after undergoing green skill development training. We have given skill training to the weaker section of people including scheduled tribes for this program in nursery management and making value added products from bamboo along with plant tissue culture," said Dr Rekha Warriar who is the current EIACP coordinator of IFGTB.

"A total of 64 centres are functioning across the country of which 19 are in the Southern Zone. This is the first time the Coimbatore centre is getting the award," he said. The funding will be helpful in givin 8% salary hike to four staff of the EIACP, sources said.