

## **Stakeholders Meeting on Validation of Descriptors of Casuarinas and Eucalypts held at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore on 15 June 2012.**

In order to provide for the establishment of an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, the Government of India enacted the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 adopting *sui generis* system. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority was established in 2005 to implement the provisions of the PPVFR Act. So far the Authority has notified 57 crop species, mostly agricultural and horticultural crops, for the purpose of registration. The Authority has developed "Guidelines for the Conduct of Species-specific Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability tests (DUS Test) to facilitate registration of these crops as per the PPVFR Act.

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has been given the responsibility of developing DUS test guidelines for two widely cultivated forestry crops viz., Casuarina and Eucalyptus by the Authority. IFGTB has brought out a draft set of guidelines in 2009 followed by its validation with varieties of these two species available with different stakeholders like industries, forest departments, Universities and Research Institutions.

IFGTB organized a stakeholders meeting on Validation of Descriptors of Casuarinas and Eucalyptus on 15.6.2012 with the funding support of the PPVFR Authority to complete the validation process of the draft DUS guidelines. Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, Director, IFGTB presented the highlights of the work done by IFGTB towards the development of guidelines for the registration of clones and varieties for the first time in forestry species. He also explained the Stakeholders the initiatives of ICFRE/IFGTB in documenting and conserving the forest genetic resources in particular the establishment of FGRMN under ICFRE. Dr. B. Gurudev Singh, Project Coordinator explained the PPVFR Act and its implications for the forestry section. Dr. A. Nicodemus and Dr V. Sivakumar, Principal Investigators explained the DUS testing guidelines and their validation for Casuarina and Eucalyptus respectively.



Dr. Dipal Roy Choudhury, Joint Registrar, PPVFRA moderated the discussion with Stakeholders and clarified their queries with regard to registration of forestry crops. Senior Plantation and R & D managers from paper mills, officials from forest departments, research organizations and universities attended the meeting. With the completion of the validation process, the draft guidelines will be submitted to PPVFR Authority for examination by a Task Force followed by notification in the Plant Variety Journal of India.