

THE EXPERT GROUP OF NRDMS- DST, VISITED INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE ON 23rd FEBRUARY, 2018.

Development of compost out of waste tribal for the livelihood support of the tribal: a part of Swachh Bharat Mission was held on 23rd February, 2018 with the experts at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The meeting was conducted by Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Dr. S. Murugesan, GCR, Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Head, Division of Bioprospecting along with the expert committee members Prof. B.K. Dass, Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Delhi, Delhi as Chairman, Dr. Bhoop Singh, Head, NRDMS-DST, New Delhi as Co Chairman, Dr. A.K. Singh, Principal Scientific Officer, NRDMS-DST, New Delhi as Member secretary, Dr. S. Kaliappan, Geospatial Chair Professor, Anna University, Chennai as Expert and Dr. S. Pazhanivelan, Professor and Head, Department of Remote Sensing and Geographic information System, TNAU, Coimbatore as Expert.

Dr. N. Senthilkumar welcomed the members of the expert group followed by brief introduction of the ongoing project being handled by the division funded by NRDMS, DST regarding products developed by IFGTB, for livelihood support. The Director, IFGTB welcomed the members and informed the strength, technical expertise, technology developed and other facilities of IFGTB, in order to effectively implement the proposed upscale project. He emphasized the DST to support for the upgradation of infrastructure facilities, such as Instrumentation, training centres, product outlet counters etc. He also appreciated the IFGTB team for such kind of endower. Dr. S. Murugesan, GCR, IFGTB briefed the role played by IFGTB for livelihood support and income generation of tribal people through product and technology transfer. He also informed the expert group that IFGTB is always a forerunner in outreach to the society through technology interventions.

The team visited the research laboratory and other infrastructure facilities available in IFGTB. The expert group had in depth discussion on various aspects of the project including technical and operational part, availability of raw material and market possibility. Based on the discussion and comments given by the experts, the following decisions emerged.

- a) It was noted that the research group in IFGTB has technical expertise and infrastructure facilities to develop value added products and emphasized the need to improve the Socio – economic condition of the local tribal people in the area.
- b) It is also seen that capability for imparting training to the tribal people has already been going on as part of their routine program with more number of participants.
- c) The equipment part required for such products have been developed as a proto type and demonstrated the fabrication of the tree rich bio booster which can help in improving the Socio-economic conditions of the tribal people.

The committee is of the opinion that Dr.N.Senthilkumar may consider revising his project in the light of experts suggestions and submit the same to DST.



