

IFGTB'S STAKEHOLDERS MEET WITH KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT

The fourth Stakeholders meet of IFGTB with the Kerala Forest Department was held at the headquarters of the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Shri Rajaraja Varma, IFS, on 13.8.2012 and attended by the many senior officers who gave valuable inputs / problems which need to be addressed by IFGTB immediately. IFGTB was represented by a team of scientists headed by the Director.

Following a presentation on the research and extension activities of IFGTB of relevance to the State of Kerala, and elaborate discussions, the following points emerged.

1. IFGTB to provide technical support on analyzing data available with the Department and to bring out joint publications.
2. Joint research programmes for monitoring all the permanent preservation plots laid out in Kerala and include the locations identified under the forest type assessment as new preservation plots, afforestation of lateritic soil in Kannur and Kasargode districts of Kerala, market information on timber rates and economic evaluation of forests.
3. Species trials of economically important species covering an area of 50 ha in different locations in the state and 50 ha land for Forest Genetic Resources Management Network activities in a single location. Forest Department of Kerala has assured support for laying such trials by providing lands in central nurseries. These trials would later serve as demo centres.
4. An economic evaluation of forests of some forest areas in Palakkad district.
5. Study on floristic diversity of Mangroves.
6. Assessment of the trial plots of *Pterocarpus santalinus* in Kerala.
7. An analysis of the socio-economic status of forest dependent communities to provide first hand information on their living conditions.
8. Mechanisation in forestry practices including planting, weeding and harvesting considering the acute shortage of labour in Kerala.
9. A workshop on teak to be organized by the Department on various research aspects.
10. Provide training to frontline staff at IFGTB on a regular basis.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

