

**Webinar on
SARS CoV2 of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:
Are we moving from strategic to tactic solution?
15thJuly, 2021 at IFGTB, Coimbatore**

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, has organised a webinar on “**SARS CoV2 of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Are we moving from strategic to tactic solution? 15thJuly, 2021** at Coimbatore. SARS-CoV-2 causes highly contagious infectious disease, emerging as the most consequential global health crisis which has been declared as global pandemic. The webinar aimed to gain some knowledge on SARS CoV2 to tackle it efficiently. About 112 participants which includes scientists, officers, technical staff members, research scholars, project students of IFGTB and online participants from various research organisations and academic institutions participated in the webinar. The organising secretary, Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist F welcomed the gathering and gave a brief overview of the webinar. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB in his inaugural address stated that the webinar is very important with respect to the current scenario of global pandemic. He also opined that this webinar throw some input and lead a path to the ICFRE funded project related to COVID.

The distinguished guest speaker Prof. Dr. R. M. Pitchappan, Former Head, Department of Immunology, MKU, Madurai, delivered a special lecture on “**COVID immunity and vaccines**”. In his talk, he covered vaccinology especially the COVID vaccines viz., Covishield and Covaxin, these vaccines when administered, immune cells can recognise the dead virus, prompting the immune system to make antibodies against the pandemic virus. He touched upon Cell-Free Synthetic Biology, Escape mutants, Host Genetics initiatives etc. Professor Dr. R. M. Pitchappan told that, he and his team have discovered the **gene marker ‘M130’** in “**Virumandi**” who is the descendant of the first migrant man to India, when they tested the DNA of some tribal villagers to get clues about human migrational history. The interactive session was chaired by Shri S. Senthilkumar, IFS, Group Co-ordinator Research, IFGTB and the queries raised by many participants were clarified by the speaker. The webinar ended with formal vote of thanks by Smt. R. Sumathi, CTO.



Inaugural address by the Director, Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist G



Overview of the webinar by the organising secretary Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist F



Guest lecture by Prof. Dr. R. M. Pitchappan, Former Head, Dept. of Immunology, MKU, Madurai



Question and Interactive session chaired by the GCR Shri S. Senthilkumar, IFS