

## **Minutes of Meeting - Monthly Seminar on “Trees Outside Forest (TOF)”**

ICFRE – Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, organised monthly seminar entitled “Trees Outside Forest (TOF)” on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. At the outset, Shri J. Sriram, IFS, Head, SFM Division welcomed the Guest speaker, Director, Scientists, Officers and Staff of ICFRE-IFGTB. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Shri T. Rabi Kumar, IFS, Director, ICFRE - IFGTB, and he emphasized that, importance of growing Trees Outside Forests to meet out the wood demand, enhancing farmer’s income, and achieving national climate and sustainability goals.

The guest speaker, Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Professor, FC & RI, TNAU, delivered a lecture on “A value chain approach for economic and environmental sustainability”. He traced India’s policy-driven shift from forest-based timber to TOF and mentioned that **nearly 98% of the country’s wood demand is now met from TOF**. He outlined the increasing demand and supply gap in wood-based industries due to shortages of quality raw materials. Value addition plays a major role for enhancing farmer income and reducing import of wood and wood products.

In the value chain model, production of Quality Planting Material (QPM) was identified as critical support for contract farming with assured buy-back mechanisms. A structured TOF value chain framework was presented, highlighting interventions across technology, organization, marketing, and institutions. Key focus areas included mechanization, debarking efficiency, standardization of biomass for bioenergy, wood seasoning, treatment, and engineered wood products. Contract Farming and Out Grower Schemes (OGS) were emphasized as effective mechanisms to integrate farmers into organized, industry-linked supply chains, supported by indicative price guidelines to ensure fair and transparent pricing.

Institutional support mechanisms discussed including the Consortium for Industrial Agroforestry, agroforestry business incubators, NABARD incubation centres, CIFOR-linked initiatives, and wood seasoning units to promote entrepreneurship and rural enterprises. The speaker also highlighted the importance of institutional credit, tree insurance, carbon market participation, and TOF certification systems (PRAMAAN) for risk mitigation, traceability, and market access.

Innovative approaches such as Bio-shield systems, circular economy models, and alignment with national schemes of RKVY, GROW Scheme, Green Credit Scheme, NTPS were presented as essential for scaling up TOF.

### **Actions may be facilitated at the institutional level:**

- Visit to successful Bio shield and industrial agroforestry models.
- Organizing a District-Level Bankers' Meet would familiarize financial institutions to key agroforestry finance aspects, including NABARD's scale of finance, tree-based loan models, the integration of tree insurance, and improved credit access for farmers in the Trees Outside Forests (TOF) sector.

- Capacity building on transit permission rules, NTPS procedures, felling regulations, and transport processes for smooth movement of farm grown trees. Also, market intelligence, TOF/PRAMAAN certification, value chain compliance, mechanization, and value addition opportunities may be included.
- Facilitate farmer awareness on fair price guidelines and transparent pricing practices to promote equitable markets and assured returns.

### **New Research areas**

- Development of industry-specific, high-yielding clones and value addition for lesser known tree species.
- Expansion of bio-shield and multifunctional agroforestry models in degraded and climate-vulnerable areas.
- Policy support for price discovery, credit, insurance and certification.
- Capacity building on transit rules and value addition
- Strengthening agroforestry incubation, entrepreneurship support, banker meetings, and multi-stakeholder consultations at district and state levels.

The Director, ICFRE-IFGTB in his concluding remarks, appreciated the comprehensive and market-oriented presentation and emphasized the need for coordinated efforts between research, policy, finance, industry, and extension to scale up TOF based agroforestry systems.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Shri K. Murali Sankar, IFS, DCF, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore.

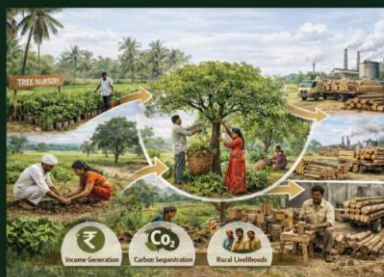




Monthly Seminar Programme

## Trees Outside Forest (TOF)

**"A Value Chain Approach for Economic and Environmental Sustainability"**



Speaker

**DR. K. T. PARTHIBAN**

Professor, FC&RI, TNAU,  
Mettupalayam



09:30 AM -  
01:00 PM

WEDNESDAY  
31 DECEMBER, 2025



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COIMBATORE