

INTERACTIVE MEETING 2010 (Stakeholders' meet 2010)

MINUTES OF THE INTERACTIVE MEETING HELD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (PCCF) OFFICE, PANAGAL MALIGAI, SAIDAPET, CHENNAI ON 28.04.2010 AT 10:00AM

Sri T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GC (R), IFGTB, Coimbatore welcomed the PCCF, APCCFs, CCFs, CFs of Tamilnadu Forest Department and Forest Officers, Scientists of IFGTB, Coimbatore for the **interactive meeting on Forestry Research and Extension** held in PCCF's Office, Panagal Maligai, Chennai on 28th April, 2010. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB briefed about the meeting, its importance and expectations. and highlighted the fact that the focus of the meet is to formulate research projects to be placed in forthcoming RAG meeting where PCCF, Tamilnadu will chair the Research Advisory Group Meeting – 2010. The meeting is also to discuss other issues like permission to enter Forest areas for conducting research, identifying of forest land for taking up research etc.. The achievements of IFGTB such as clonal release, VVKs, extension centres, farmer's mela, formulation of AICPs etc., were also highlighted by the Director.

Two books namely "Manual of economically important forestry species in South India" and "Tree borne soil seeds of Tamil Nadu" (Tamil) were released by he Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri. A.S. Balanathan, IFS and Head of Forest Force..In his inaugural address the PCCF, reiterated that the meeting is primarily meant for the dissemination of research findings and the inferences made by scientists of IFGTB to the forest department for implementation.

The gist of the inaugural speech is as under:

- (1) Tamil Nadu Forest Department is in the process of finalizing the new project "The Tamilnadu Natural Resources Sustainable project". with twin objectives of 1. Conservation of Biodiversity and 2. Contain Global warming.
- (2) Consequently the Tamil Nadu Forest Department expects research work of IFGTB should be focused on these lines because results from the findings will help for the implementation by the Department.
- (3) The extension wing of TNFD is performing well and the inferences of the research findings are being disseminated to the farmers, industries and other stakeholders but still have some constraints

whereas, IFGTB and ICFRE R & Ds are more efficient and well equipped to disseminate the findings to the farmers. Further IFGTB is also doing well in CDM Programmes and forest Department expects IFGTB to assist them in this regard.

(4) Some of the new components in Biodiversity conservation such as removal of alien invasive species from forest areas require more research studies, since this may be one of the tools for the conservation of original biodiversity.

(5) Tamil Nadu Forest Department is the foremost department to embark upon Tree Planting outside forests , hence considerable research is needed in this field.

The inaugural speech was followed by presentation of research achievements of the IFGTB by Shri R.S.C. Jayaraj, IFS presented research achievements of the IFGTB, on going activities and future activities of IFGTB. Besides, the proposed setting up of IFGTB as a nodal agency for Forest Genetic Resource Management Network Management (FGRNM) and the involvement of various agencies including the Tamil Nadu Forest Department was highlighted.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB informed the areas in which Institute can collaborate with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department :-

1. Exchange of Approved Annual Project List
2. Relook various trials handed over to the Department and its maintenance.
3. Help in statistical designing, for new research.
4. Provide laboratory facilities.
5. Baseline study for EIA.
6. Registration of Foresters for Ph.D and post Doctoral Programmes.
7. Preparation of yield tables and contribution to Working plans
8. Conduct Training programmes, to suit specific requirements.
9. Making available genetically superior clones, and seeds for various planting programmes
10. Facility to use the Library-CD rom.search facilities.
11. To work along with Research & Extension wing of the Forest Department
12. To contribute to TNFD's thrust areas for IX Five Year Plan
13. Collaborating to build up a State Research Policy for TNFD
14. To undertake any other project / activity identified by TNFD

IFGTB's expectations from TNFD were also highlighted as follows:-

1. Simplified procedure for access to forest areas.
2. Permission for seed collection
3. Regular exchange of visits of scientists/officers.
4. Funding for Specialized projects.
5. Allotment of funds for research from CAMPA funds.
6. Support for protecting Intellectual Property Rights.
7. Extension: Community orchards in Extension Centres, Joint Training Programmes

The areas of collaborative activities by both IFGTB and TNFD for consideration are:

1. Exchange of approved list of projects to avoid duplication
2. Joint implementation of projects
3. Extension support – community orchards.
4. Joint training programme.
5. Joint annual transfer of technology
6. Identification of demand –driven areas of research.
7. Joint efforts in RET species, species recovery of fragile ecosystem.
8. Forest Genetics Resource Management Network

The presentation by IFGTB was followed by discussion the gist is as follows

- ❖ IFGTB to provide information on agro-climatic zone wise or district wise species for TCPL programme, potential species for more carbon sequestration and Lantana weed control measures It was informed that those details were available in the books released during the meet.
- ❖ IFGTB to give details of research work on growth biomass in natural ecosystem,& utility value of Eucalyptus as furniture material. Suitable reply was given
- ❖ IFGTB to prepare Quality planting stock and species wise pest and diseases management plan.
- ❖ It was informed that the Department is in need of climate change related studies with special reference to the impact of elevated temperature and carbon dioxide on growth performance of

trees and dependent organisms. Further the gene which can withstand high temperature and CO₂ can be identified and can be introduced into the desired plant system for future climate change effects. It was also requested that IFGTB identify the best species for carbon sequestration suitable for mixed plantation and regular monitoring of growing stock in forest areas.

- ❖ IFGTB should identify suitable tree species for TCPL and good planting stock i.e., nursery technology.

- ❖ IFGTB to produce more publications in Tamil.

- ❖ IFGTB to concentrate on the studies on RuBisCo enzyme necessary for photosynthesis. The need to take up studies on the co-evolution of species and physiological changes of poikilotherms was stressed.

- ❖ IFGTB to provide information on tissue culture protocol for tree species for TCPL, biopesticides, VAM fungi, and permission for JRFs to visit IFGTB labs.

Shri K. G. Anand Naik, CF (Research) presented their research activities in brief such as gall insect pest management using biopesticides, Eucalyptus root architecture, assemblages of fruit bearing trees in shoals, work on RET species, and nursery technology for *M. dubia* etc.

Shri. V. Irulandi, CCF (FE) also presented activities of extension wing of TNFD such as eco camps, establishment of tree growers societies, demonstration plots for TCPL and various agroforestry models at farmers field. He also requested need support from IFGTB are as follows

1. Quality planting stock at reasonable cost.
2. Site specific tree species.
3. Suitable and successful agroforestry models.
4. Pest management strategies.
5. Need based trainings etc.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB responded by informing that:

- ❖ All the suggestions made by the department will be taken care of. He also added that there are some limitation at IFGTB too, though IFGTB stays committed and mandated for genetic improvement and breeding of tree species of stakeholder's interest.
- ❖ Assured PCCF that this year few studies on invasive species will be taken up. As far carbon sequestration potential species as concerned, a couple of studies have been made and the information will be shared to the Department,
- ❖ Other suggestions such as more publication in Tamil, RuBisCo enzyme, root architecture of Eucalyptus, quality planting stock production etc., will also be taken care of.,

Shri. A.S. Balanathan, IFS, PCCF in his concluding remarks informed that

- ❖ the main objective of the meeting is how best the effective collaboration can be made between IFGTB and the Department on Forestry Research and Extension.
- ❖ Some funds may be made available in 13th Finance commission plan for Research.
- ❖ CAMPA funds cannot be spared to IFGTB at present since funds received has been already earmarked for various activities of the Forest Department. CAMPA funds can be spared to IFGTB for research..
- ❖ Issues regarding permission to enter forest areas for Research by IFGTB officers/Scientists can be resolved..
- ❖ Permission to revisit the establishment trials can be given.
- ❖ The main focus should be core competent of both the institutions, basic research should be carried out by IFGTB and the Field oriented research should be taken up by the Department for successful forestry research and extension.

The Interactive meeting ended with the formal vote of thanks by Shri. T. P. Raghunath, IFS, GC (R), IFGTB, Coimbatore.

Photos of Interactive Meeting, Chennai; 28.4.2010



