

Report of the One day Seminar cum interactive meeting on
“Impact of plantation forestry: Medium & Small Scale Industries”
11th February, 2020
at IFGTB Coimbatore

One day seminar cum interactive meeting with industrial people and farmers was held at the Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore on 11th February, 2020. **Dr. S. Murugesan, Director**, IFGTB chaired the seminar. **Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar, Scientist- F and Co-ordinator of this seminar** welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of this seminar and interaction with wood based industries for the benefit of this society. Wood based industries, Carving Industries, Pencil Industry, Ply wood Industry representatives and resource persons from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, progressing farmers and IFGTB Scientists, officers and research staff including SRFs, JRFs, RAs and FAs, attended the seminar.

Dr V. Sivakumar, Scientist- F, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division of the institute formally welcomed the gatherings and exchanged his views that value of trees and knowledge about the tree species should be shared between farmers and industries to sensitize about the tree species and make use of it in optimum beneficial way.

In the **inaugural address, the Director, IFGTB, Dr. S. Murugesan**, stressed that, to fulfill the demands of wood based industries viz., small and medium scale industries, needs to be taken care. The required demands have to be met through plantation forestry by raising high productive, pest and disease resistant varieties and also to tackle the global climate change amidst ever increasing population growth.

In the **Institutional presentation session**, ongoing research activities of IFGTB have been discussed in the following aspects 1. “Update on tree improvement in *Neolamarkia cadamba*” by Dr.A. Vijayaraghavan, 2. “*Melia dubia*: Perspectives and Prospects” by Dr. Rekha Warriar, 3. “Perspectives and Milestones in *Ailanthus excelsa*” by Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar and 4. “Industrees for Industries” by Dr. B. Nagarajan were deliberated. All presenters emphasized the various tree improvement aspects of the tree species and industries demand and supply, existing agro forestry models, economics of cultivation, clonal propagation through coppice shoots production, veneer and plywood industrial needs, also about IFGTBs contribution in production of eucalyptus hybrid trees for veneer and plywood industry.

Prof. Dr. A. Balasubramanian from Forest College and Research Institute (TNAU) delivered an elaborative talk on “Impact of Plantation Forestry: Industrial perspective”.

In the interactive session, Industrial representatives as well as progressive farmers actively shared the pragmatic experience on plywood, Splint industry, Pencil Making, Carving, and veneer. Industries shared their demand and supply position also expectations and their preferences for alternative wood species to meet the demand. During this session the coordinator expressed that IFGTB is currently working on the production of quality wood material from different tree species with reduced cost of production. A detailed account of a successful agro forestry model with *Ailanthus excelsa* was shared by a progressive farmer from Cauvery delta zone. There was an exhibition during this seminar, the carvings, handicraft items, plywood, carrom board coins and veneer's made out of various trees viz., Cadamba, Eucalyptus, Rain tree, Neem, Babool was displayed for the benefit of august audience.

Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar concluded the seminar with formal vote of thanks to all especially the farmers and representatives from different industries for their participation and resource persons for their contribution to conduct this seminar. The Industries and farmers expressed that it was one of the best interactive and informative seminars for them.

Gaps:

The ply industries are running with adequate raw material supply. The consumption pattern has drastically reduced, due to the economic low down, hence in Amby ply alone downsized the procurement of raw material 1500 tons to 800 tons/month.

Match splints industry looking for a raw material of 80000 - 90000 splints/kg of wood, for sustainable utilization of indigenous species.

Carving industry look for Neem, Thespesia and Artocarpus and Samanea saman for the local market and quality teak wood which is having a huge export potential in Europe and Korea.

Pencil industry is using the *Macaranga peltata* and poplar and also suggested a best suited species for them is a wet ever green species *Lophopetalum wightianum* and *Bombax ceiba*.

Tree growers association expressed that the medium and small scale tree growers expect a comprehensive cultivation package for the industrially important species, in the similar pattern of KVK in ICAR, VVK has to be increased cater the needs of the farmers in the district level.

Thereby it will link directly the researchers with the farmers.

