

National Workshop
on
Securing Wood Demand through Enhancing Productivity of Planted Forests

29 - 30 January 2019
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore organised a two day National Workshop "**Securing Wood Demand through Enhancing Productivity of Planted Forests**". The objective of the workshop was to have a serious stakeholders consultation on the ongoing tree improvement programmes in various tree crops for enhancing productivity and wood quality and for securing wood demand for different end uses. About 150 participants which includes Foresters, Scientists, Wood Based Industries, Academician from Different Universities, Research Scholars, Non Governmental Organisations, Federations of Wood Industries, Handicraft Articians and tree growing farmers participated in the workshop.

Dr S. Murugesan, Group Co-ordinator (Research) and conveners of the workshop welcomed the delegates. This was followed by a brief overview of the workshop by Dr A. Nicodemus, Head, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division, who also shared his thoughts on expectations from the Workshop. He also mentioned that the workshop looks forward to solutions for meeting the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets of 2030.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB, in his Presidential address, said that the workshop has been envisaged with the national goal of achieving 33 per cent area under green cover and the most plausible solution is to increase the scope of Trees outside Forests. Agroforestry and farm forestry are two avenues, which would help the country to meet the NDC targets of 2030. He opined that productivity could be viewed in terms of wood and finances. Compelling issues like demand and supply gap need to be addressed. With certification of wood becoming an important requirement in global exports, he stressed the need for connecting together all the stallholders like Forest Department, Wood

based Industries, Research organisations and farmers in making our trees outside the forests highly productive and remunerative and to reduce our reliance on imports.

The Chief Guest Shri. R.K. Upadhyay, IFS, PCCF, Head of Forest Force and Chairman, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd., in his inaugural address, stressed on the need for a mass movement for tree planting similar to the white and green revolutions in India. He remarked that with limited land resources available, there is a need to concentrate on efforts to improve the quality of planting material and its accessibility to the farmers. He also emphasised the need for improving the health of the soil, which is subject to repeated cultivations, and therefore depleted of all nutrients. He suggested seeking investment from the private sector on a benefit-sharing basis. Relaxing the rules with respect to cultivation, transport and trade would encourage more farmers to take up tree cultivation, he added.

The Chief Guest released the 'Abstract book' of the workshop. Shri A. Mayavel, Organising Secretary of the Workshop proposed the vote of thanks. This was followed by inauguration of the Poster session by the Chief Guest. About 25 invited and 10 lightning presentations have been made by the delegates during the two day workshop in four thematic sessions. The workshops also hosted presentation of 50 research papers as posters.



Presidential address by Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Release of Workshop Abstract Book by Chief Guest, Shri. R. K. Upadhyay, IFS, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd.



Inaugural Address by Shri. R.K. Upadhyay, IFS, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd.



National Workshop Participants



Inauguration of Poster Exhibitions