

## **Report of Training on Sandalwood farming and management of its health**

Indian Sandal wood (*Santalum album* L.) which is acknowledged as 'Royal Tree' in Indian subcontinent is associated with Indian culture and heritage. India was contributing 85% of world's trade of sandal wood but it has been reduced to negligible level in recent years and it is in IUCN's 'vulnerable' list of tree species. This resulted in changes in the policy of sandal wood cultivation in states and central governments. Consequently farming of sandal wood is gaining momentum. In this context, Institute of Wood Science and Technology organized a one day online training on "**Sandalwood farming and management of its health**" on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in the regional language Tamil for the benefit of farmers to grow sandal wood in a more healthy and sustainable way. Experts from various divisions gave lectures on different aspects of sandal wood farming. About 426 participants from various states attended the training through Webex (62 participants) and Youtube (364 participants). The Programme started with the welcome address by Shri V. Soundararajan, Scientist D and the Course Co-Director. Followed by, Shri V.S. Shettappanavar, IFS, Group Co-ordinator (Research) addressed the gathering. Dr. M.P Singh, IFS, Director, IWST inaugurated the training programme. Dr. R Sundararaj, Scientist G and the Course Director, addressed the gathering and welcomed the participants.

First session was on 'Basics and benefits of cultivating Indian sandal wood' by Dr. R Sundararaj, Scientist G and HOD, Forest Protection Division. He enlightened the participants with basic concepts of sandalwood farming and shared his practical experience and knowledge with sandal wood farmers. Dr. N. Ravi, Scientist E gave lecture on 'Sandalwood seed handling and nursery techniques' in which he mentioned about processing of sandal wood fruits and seed quality testing. Lecture on 'Management of diseases in sandalwood nursery and plantations was given by Dr. A. Muthukumar, Scientist E where he explained about various diseases affecting each stage of sandalwood, their symptoms and control methods. Dr. M.V. Durai, Scientist D made presentation on 'Plantation technology in sandalwood based agroforestry systems'. He described about various planting techniques and various agroforestry systems. In the Afternoon session, Dr. R. Sundararaj, delivered the lecture on 'Good silvicultural practices for the best health of sandalwood'. He emphasized about the harmful effects of injudicious pruning to the farmer with good examples. Followed by, there was an interactive session at the end, where the participants raised their queries, for which the experts cleared their doubts raised by the participants. The training was concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri R. Raja Rishi, Scientist E. The participants also gave their valuable feedback about the training programme.

Some glimpses of the event





