

RFRI ORGANIZED SECOND NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGARWOOD CUM TREE GROWERS MELA

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) organized Second National Seminar on Agarwood cum Tree Growers' Mela for Agarwood Farmers at its premises during 24-25 March, 2022. It was inaugurated by Dr. B. C. Deka, Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Vice Chancellor Assam Down Town University, Guwahati and Dr. K. C. Puzari, Eminent Plant Pathologist, AAU, Jorhat were the Guests of honour.

The Seminar started with the welcome address by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI who briefed about the importance of agarwood as well as research contribution of RFRI in agarwood.

Dr. Talukdar mentioned that agarwood infection mechanism is still is a 'black box', it's a natural phenomena with small organism and Scientists are still lagging behind in basic research on agarwood.

Dr. K. C. Puzari emphasized on technology transfer to farmers. He also raised different issues such as immature harvesting of agarwood, lack of cultivation practices, frequency of isolation and insect pest relationship for infection. He suggested that RFRI should sit with all the stakeholders and make a package of practices for agarwood cultivation.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Deka, VC, AAU Jorhat emphasized on importance of collaborative research in respect to agarwood. He put forward an idea of creating a corpus fund along with RFRI and NEIST, Jorhat to research together on the different issues of agarwood. He also mentioned that the development of new technology of maximum oil recovery is the need of the hour and gave more emphasis to work as a group for systematic research. He suggested that to involve industry, other institutes and progressive farmers for agarwood research and also suggested to organize a brainstorming session on collaborative research on agarwood.

Altogether thirteen research papers were presented during the Technical Session. Dr. N. C. Talukdar, VC, Assam Downtown University, Guwahati delivered the Key Note Address in the Technical Session. Two research papers, one each from Indonesia and Malaysia were presented through online during the Session.

A Cultural Programme was held in the evening.

On 25th March, 2022, a Tree Growers' Mela for agarwood farmers was organized. It was inaugurated by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jorhat, Shri Nandhakumar, IFS, and Dr. Ganapathy Arumugam, MD and Group Science Director of Enhanced Biofuels and Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, attended the Inaugural Session. Interaction session with Agarwood farmers and traders was held as part of the Mela where Shri Satyam Bordoloi, Shri Dilwar Hussain, Shri Dharmendra Hegde, Dr. R. K. Borah delivered presentations and shared experience with the farmers.

A License Agreement was signed with a Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) based company, Enhanced Biofuels and Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd. for transfer of one bio-inoculant used for artificial induction of Agarwood during the Tree Growers Mela.

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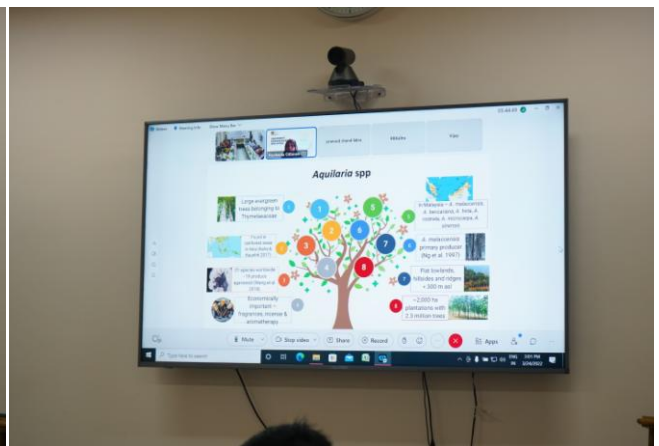
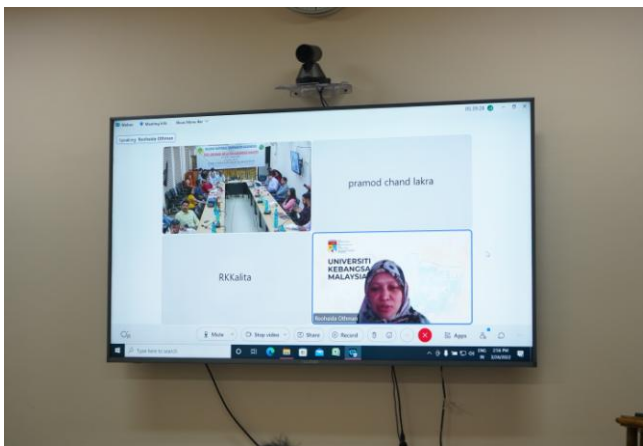
GLIMPSES OF SEMINAR AND TREE GROWERS MELA INAUGURAL SESSION



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TECHNICAL SESSION



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CULTURAL PROGRAMME



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TREE GROWERS' MELA AND INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH FARMERS



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EXHIBITION



MEDIA COVERAGE

