

**ONE WEEK COMPULSORY TRAINING COURSE ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
AND TREE IMPROVEMENT FOR INDIAN FOREST SERVICE OFFICERS
AT ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE
11.09.2023 - 15.09.2023**

Inaugural Programme

A one week training course for the Indian Forest Service officers on "**Forest Genetic Resource Management and Tree Improvement**" was organized at ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, from 11th to 15th, September, 2023. The training was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India. A total of 26 IFS officers at the level of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers from 16 states and one UT cadre attended the training. The programme initiated with invocation of Nature by Dr. Kannan C.S. Warriar. Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist- F & Head, FGRM Division and the training coordinator, welcomed the gathering and highlighted that ICFRE-IFGTB has successfully conducted more than ten training programme to IFS officer's on FGR management. He gave an overview of the training module, the topics covered and field visits under the training programme. Following this, the IFS officers introduced themselves.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB in his address briefed about the significance of Forest Genetic Resource (FGRs) and the need for their conservation, networking and the lead role played by IFGTB in FGR & TI research. He sought the co-ordination, co-operation and collective efforts from the Forest Departments for effective implementation of the Forest Genetic Resource Management Network.

The Chief Guest, Dr. K. Ravichandran, IFS, Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, inaugurated the Training Course by lighting the lamp and released the training manual. During the inaugural address, he stressed upon the need on framing National Bureau of Forest Genetic Resources. He also explained about significance of ecosystem services and the role of forest in providing them. He emphasized on the conservation of genetic resources for forest management, as India has recorded 2063 species, among which 600 are endangered and 400 are threatened. He insisted on protecting the forest's genetic diversity through networking with the forest department and research organizations. He also mentioned about in-situ, ex-situ conservation of seeds and pollen for sustainable utilization of Forest genetic resources. He briefed the G-20 summit declaration on conservation, management and sustainable development of forests. He informed that the government plans to restore nearly 50% of degraded land by 2040. He also highlighted that the scientists to focus on developing good varieties and clones.

Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist- G proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Glimpses of Inaugural function of One Week IFS training course on “Forest Genetic Resource Management & Tree Improvement” at IFGTB, Coimbatore on 11th September 2023

