



TRAINING
ON
QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION IN NURSERY
ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)
COIMBATORE

Training on Quality Planting Material Production in Nursery (QPMPN) for Forest Range Officers, Foresters, and Forest Guards of Tamil Nadu Forest Department was organized by ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore as a part of the UK-Darwin Initiative on 1st March 2024 at ICFRE-IFGTB. Dr. S. Saravanan, Head, Extension, ICFRE-IFGTB extended a warm welcome to the guests and attendees, emphasizing the significance of the training program. He provided an overview of the objectives of the Quality Planting Material (QPM) Production in Nursery, setting the stage for the sessions to follow.

Dr. R. Yasodha, Group Coordinator Research, ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the Presidential Address. During her address, she emphasized the critical importance of planting material. While highlighting the Institute's research endeavors, Dr. Yasodha primarily address the needs and demands of various stakeholders for QPM. Dr. Yasodha underscored the Institute's readiness to offer similar training to forest officials at any time. She also assured that this training would furnish all necessary technical inputs for producing QPM.

Shri. I. Anwardeen IFS, PCCF, TNFD, Chennai inaugurated the training programme. During his inaugural address, Shri. I. Anwardeen highlighted that India is yet to achieve the target of 33% forest cover. TNFD's various tree planting programs such as Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM) and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP), annually cover 31,000 hectares with the assistance of 3,000 forest groups, he added. He emphasized the need for forest

staff to enhance their knowledge in identifying indigenous species and undertaking restoration efforts. The PCCF stressed the societal need for QPM and underscored the need for Agroforestry, especially Trees Outside Forests (TOF). He urged forest officials to aim for only QPM in nurseries, enabling at least 10% gain for the tree growers. He expressed his deep gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for hosting the training and encouraged forest officials to adopt the showcased technologies, particularly utilizing quality planting material to enhance productivity. He also assured that as a follow-up, a training on the use of digital platforms such as Tree Genie would be supported by the Department.

Technical session

The resource persons of ICFRE-IFGTB made presentations on different topics as detailed below:

1. **Basics on need for QPM in forestry** - Shri A. Mayavel
2. **Identification of source of planting material** - Dr T. Vamadevan
3. **Good Practices of Fruit Collection, Seed Extraction and Storage** - Mr Suresh Kumar
4. **Vegetative propagation** - Mr R. Velumani
5. **Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock** - Dr. S. Vigneswaran
6. **Nursery pest and disease control** - Mr C. Rajesh

The resource persons from ICFRE-IFGTB generously shared their extensive knowledge and expertise during the training session, delving into the current status and requirements of QPM. In addition to informative presentations, hands-on training sessions were also conducted, focusing on seed testing, germination and vegetative propagation techniques. The department staff had the opportunity to actively engage and gain practical experience in these crucial aspects of QPM production. This hands-on approach enhanced their understanding and equipped them with valuable skills that they could apply directly in their work.

Feedback session & Valedictory

During the feedback session, the participants expressed their desire for more hands-on training, highlighting its importance in their skill development. They extended their gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such valuable training, recognizing its significant role in future QPM production. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of ICFRE-IFGTB, commended the forest officials for

their active participation and assured that such trainings would be made a regular feature. He assured them of ICFRE-IFGTB's continued support and guidance whenever they faced challenges in QPM production. Certificates were awarded to the trainees by Dr. Kunhikannan and Dr. R. Yasodha, GCR. Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist-E, ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the vote of thanks. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the UK-Darwin Initiative for the financial support.



Shri. I. Anwardeen IFS, PCCF, TNFD Chennai inaugurated the training programme



Dr. S. Saravanan, Head, Extension, ICFRE-IFGTB extended a warm welcome to the guests and attendees



Inagural address by Shri. I. Anwardeen IFS, PCCF, TNFD, Chennai



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of ICFRE-IFGTB interact with Participants



Presentation on Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock - Dr. S. Vigneswaran



Presentation on Nursery pest and disease control- Mr C. Rajesh



Hands-on training on seed testing, germination



Hands-on training on Vegetative Propagation



Hands-on training on Vegetative Propagation



Honored Shri. I. Anwardeen IFS, PCCF, TNFD Chennai



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of ICFRE-IFGTB awarded the Certificates trainees



Group photo