

**INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BANGALORE**  
**BHARAT KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV – WEEK 31 TO WEEK 43**

**Online Training in HINDI**  
**on**  
**Sandalwood Farming and Management of its Health**

**11 October 2021**

Azadi Ka Amruth Mahotsav is a program launched for 75 weeks starting March 12 2021 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. As part of this celebration, ICFRE is conducting various programs like technical series, workshops, exhibitions, documentary shows, poster and essay competitions, cycle rallies etc.

Earlier, Institute of Wood Science and Technology organized two online lectures/seminars on 'Propagation and Cultivation of Indian Sandalwood' during April 2021 and on 'Wood Composites' during June 2021. The third program during July 2021 was a poster competition on Importance of Conservation of the pollinators in different Ecosystems. An online training in Tamil on "Sandalwood Farming & Management of its Health and a webinar on Identification, Certification and Utilization of Timbers were organized during Sept 2021.

As part of Week 31 to 43 celebration of Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, the Institute conducted (sixth program) an online training in **HINDI** language on "**Sandalwood Farming and Management of its Health**" on 11 October 2021.

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 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in Hindi language as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, 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 252 participants from various states attended the training through Webex (96 participants) and Youtube (156 participants).

The Program started with the welcome address by Dr.M.P Singh, IFS, Director, IWST. Followed by, ShriV.S. Shettappanavar, IFS, Group Coordinator (Research) addressed the gathering. The program was inaugurated by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Dr. R Sundararaj, Scientist G and 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.

Dr. B.N.Diwakar delivered a lecture on the topic "Plantation technology and economics of growing sandalwood".

Dr. R.Sundararaj, delivered a 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 concluded with vote of thanks by Ms. Naveena. The participants also gave their valuable feedback about the training program.

Overall the program was coordinated by Shri C.M. Shivakumar, IFS, Head Extension Division.

## Some glimpses of the event







