

"Increase in Forest Productivity through Tree Improvement"

under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav TFRI, Jabalpur (6th to 12th September 2021)

In a series of events being celebrated under *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* from 6th to 12th September 2021, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division of TFRI, Jabalpur under the theme of "*Increase in Forest Productivity through Tree Improvement*", organized plantation of 12 RET species such as *Stereospermum suaveolens*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Cordia macleodii*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Kigelia africana*, *Saraca asoca* etc. on 6th September 2021 in the premises of the institute. These RET species will be taken up for future tree improvement programmes. At this event, Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, ARS, Director, TFRI, and Scientists, Research scholars and other staff members of the Institute participated in the plantation program.

On September 07, 2021 another event were celebrated under *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. In the event documentary on "*JADAV PAYENG THE FOREST CREATOR*" were played. In this documentary, it was learnt that how vast areas could be converted into good quality forest by the efforts of a common man. Scientists, Research scholars and other staff members of the Institute watched and enjoyed this documentary.

On September 08, 2021, DNA extraction methods were demonstrated in the molecular biology labs of Genetics and Tree Improvement Division of the institute. At molecular lab, Research scholars learned that through DNA analysis of a plant, its different traits can be known.

A webinar on the topic of "*Increase in Forest Productivity through Tree Improvement*" was also conducted wherein the keynote speaker Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Dean (Forestry), Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University delivered a lecture and discussed in detail future prospects of tree improvement in India. Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, ARS, Director, TFRI welcomed and expressed gratitude towards Dr. K. T. Parthiban. He emphasized the importance of tree improvement for enhancement of productivity of forests in India. Dr. Fatima Shirin, Scientist-G and Head, GTI Division welcomed the participants for participating in the webinar and elaborated the need of improved quality planting stock. Dr. Naseer Mohammad, Scientist-D, GTI Division coordinated all the events celebrated under Amrit Mahotsav. At last Dr. Pramod Tiwari, Scientist-C, GTI Division proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude towards all participants for participating in different events of the Mahotsav.

On September 10, 2021, visit to tissue culture laboratory was organized. Research scholars and students were taught how through tissue culture techniques whole plants can be developed from small part of a plant throughout year under controlled conditions.

On September 11, 2021, Nursery techniques of important tree species, bamboos and medicinal plants were demonstrated at Nursery, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division. In the event, Research scholars and students participated and learned different methods of propagation such as cutting, grafting and by seeds. All the participants took interest in different events and learned various useful activities carried out to celebrate "*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*".



