

INTERACTIVE MEETING WITH CASUARINA TREE GROWERS FROM VILLUPURAM DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

Organized by ICFRE - IFGTB, Coimbatore

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized interactive meeting with Casuarina tree growers of Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu on 08.08.2024 at ICFRE-IFGTB. About 26 progressive casuarina growers participated in the interactive meeting. This interactive meeting was arranged as a part of "Skill development training program on Nursery Techniques" organized by KVK, TNAU, Tindivanam.

Dr. Leelavathi, Associate Professor, KVK, Tindivanam, welcomed the farmers and scientists and briefed about the visit to ICFRE-IFGTB. Dr. S. Saravanan, Head, Extension division, ICFRE - IFGTB gave an overview of the institute's research and extension activities. Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist G, ICFRE-IFGTB narrated the contribution of the ICFRE-IFGTB in the field of Casuarina tree improvement and clones released in Casuarina. He briefed about need of QPM, minimum spacing, cultural operations, irrigation and fertilizer schedule, growth, yield, rotation period, marketing, etc. to the farmers. Farmers had one to one interaction with Dr. A. Nicodemus and shared their experiences in growing Casuarina clones (CH-5 and CJ-9) of ICFRE-IFGTB.

As a part of the visit, farmers were taken to Vegetative Multiplication Garden of the institute. Visit was made to show different facilities *viz.*, Mother bed chamber, shade house and the essential requirements for mass multiplication. The farmers were appraised by Shri. Paulraj, Technician, ICFRE-IFGTB, on the concepts of selection of candidate plus trees, establishment of VMG, collection of cuttings from Mother Bed chambers, vegetative multiplication garden and coppice shoots, etc. They were also given inputs on the various advanced methodologies practiced by ICFRE-IFGTB in clonal propagation of Eucalyptus, Casuarina and other important indigenous tree species.





