



Collaborative Training on

**VALUE ADDITION OF TAMARIND FOR IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS
ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

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**CENTRE FOR POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY, AEC & RI
TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE**

(Funded by CAMPA, MoEF & CC, GOI, New Delhi)

The *Training on Value Addition of Tamarind for Improving Livelihoods* was conducted by the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, in collaboration with the Centre for Post-Harvest Technology, AEC & RI, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on December 30, 2024. The training was a part of the third objective of the project titled *Tamarind (Tamarindus indica Linn.): Domestication, Conservation, and Deployment of Genetic Resources for Sustenance and Livelihood Amelioration (AICRP-15)*, funded by CAMPA, MoEF & CC, Government of India, New Delhi.

Twenty six women from six tribal Self-Help Groups based in the Javvadhru Hills, Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu participated in the value addition training program. Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist and Principal Investigator of the AICRP Tamarind Project, welcomed the guests and participants, emphasizing the importance of the training initiative.

Dr. D.Rajasugunasekar, Scientist-G and Head, Genetic and Tree Improvement Division, ICFRE-IFGTB, outlined of the objectives of the training.

Dr. B. Nagarajan, Group Coordinator Research and National Project Coordinator (NPC) of AICRP-15, delivered a special address emphasizing the training's benefits for livelihood

enhancement and assured participants that the program would provide them with essential techniques for producing value-added tamarind products. Dr. Nagarajan highlighted the interdisciplinary approach of the training and its broader significance in developing tamarind products to support sustainable livelihood improvement.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the Presidential Address, highlighting the integral role of tamarind trees in various aspects of life and emphasized their diverse contributions and significance in enhancing livelihoods. He emphasized the critical role of skill development and sustainable practices in uplifting tribal communities, particularly through initiatives of value addition in tamarind products.

Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head of the Centre for Post-Harvest Technology, AEC & RI, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, inaugurated the training program. He emphasized the significant market potential of tamarind products at both national and international levels. He provided insights into various value-added tamarind products and their production processes. Dr. Karthikeyan expressed his gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing this impactful training session, recognizing its essential role in improving the livelihoods of the participants.

Dr. D. Balu, Consultant with the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, and President of Vivekanandha Trust, Thiruvannamalai, delivered an inspiring address on tribal upliftment. Dr. Balu highlighted the importance of fostering self-reliance and among tribal populations, enabling them to harness natural resources effectively while preserving their cultural heritage. His address underscored the need for collaborative efforts between government bodies, research institutions, and local communities to create impactful and lasting solutions for improving tribal livelihoods.

Dr. T. Pandiyarajan, Professor of Food Process Engineering, explained the essential machinery for tamarind minimal processing and value addition, demonstrating mechanical de-husking and de-seeding through audio-visual aids. Dr. V. Vani, Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, detailed the processing methods for various value-added tamarind products and conducted hands-on training on preparing readymade *Puliyogare* mix. Dr. P. Geetha, Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, highlighted the importance and scope of convenience foods in the

Indian market and provided training on producing tamarind-based candies and packaging techniques.

Dr. V. Veeranan Arun Giridhari, Associate Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, emphasized the importance of quality control and quality assurance in tamarind value-added products, particularly for export purposes. Participants received hands-on training in producing tamarind beverages and ketchup. Dr. G. Kavitha Shree, Assistant Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, highlighted the significance of minimal processing in the Indian food market and conducted hands-on sessions on preparing tamarind paste and tamarind powder. J. Geethanjali, Teaching Assistant in Renewable Energy, discussed the energy demands of Indian industries and the importance of renewable energy sources. She demonstrated the potential of tamarind pod waste and seed material as energy resources using audio-visual aids.

These interactive sessions enabled participants to gain hands-on experience in producing tamarind value-added products, encouraging active engagement. Through direct participation, they enhanced their understanding and acquired practical skills for immediate application. This approach greatly strengthened the training's impact, equipping participants with the knowledge and capabilities to innovate and improve their livelihoods through tamarind-based products.

Feedback session & Valedictory

During the feedback session, participants stressed the importance of practical training in developing their skills, particularly at the grassroots level, which is essential for improving tamarind product production. They conveyed heartfelt gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such a transformative program, acknowledging its profound impact on their livelihood enhancement. At the end of the training, certificates were awarded to participants by Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head at CPHT, TNAU. Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist-E at ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing sincere appreciation to CAMPA, MoEF & CC, GOI, New Delhi, for their generous financial support and to CPHT at TNAU for their valuable partnership.



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, the Director of ICFRE-IFGTB, welcomed Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head of CPHT, TNAU, to the training programme.



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of ICFRE-IFGTB, delivering the Presidential Address



Welcome address by Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar, Scientist-G and Head, Genetic and Tree Improvement Division, ICFRE-IFGTB and Special address by Dr. B. Nagarajan, GCR and NPC of AICRP-15 Tamarind Project.



Lecture on food processing unit by Dr. J Gitanjali, Teaching Assistant at CPHT, TNAU



Lecture on Tamarind processing unit by Dr. T. Pandiyarajan, Professor, AEC & RI, Coimbatore



Hands on Training on Production of Tamarind candy at CPHT, TNAU



Hands on Training on Production of Tamarind paste at CPHT, TNAU



Hands on Training on Production of Tamarind squash at CPHT, TNAU



Hands on Training on Production of Puliyothara mix at CPHT, TNAU



Valedictory function, certificate distribution to the participants by Dr.S. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, CPHT, TNAU



Group Photo at ICFRE-IFGTB