

**Report on ICFRE - REGIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON
'Forest Bioresources-Scope and Challenges for Valorization'
on 25 August 2023**

**Organized by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore in association with
Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru**

The ICFRE-IFGTB organized a Regional Research Conference on 'Forest Bioresources-Scope and Challenges for Valorization' in association with Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru on 25 August, 2023 under the auspices of the chief patron of Shri A.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE, Dehradun in hybrid mode. The DDG (Administration), DDG (Education), DDG (Research), DDG (Extension), ADG (Research and Planning), ADG (Monitoring and Evaluation), Directors and GCRs of all ICFRE institutes, PCCFs, APCCFs, DCFs, DFOs of Forest Departments of Southern region, Managing Directors of Forest Development corporations, University Deans and Directors of other institutes, other stakeholders and officers, scientists, technical staff members of all ICFRE institutes participated in the conference in hybrid mode. The Director, GCR, resource persons, scientists, officers, technical staffs and research scholars of ICFRE-IFGTB participated in person.

The Regional Research Conference began with welcome by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore followed by an introduction by Dr M. P. Singh, Director, ICFRE-IWST, Bengaluru. He expressed that this topic, contemporary in nature, would address issues related to all products including NTFPs. Dr. Ratnaker Jauhari, DDG (Research), ICFRE detailed the different collaborative theme based research projects focusing on the natural resources with the scope of bioprospecting. Mrs. Kanchan Devi, DDG (Education), ICFRE wished success for the RRC. In his address, the guest of honour APCCF (Research & Utilization), Karnataka Forest Department stated the need to share information in a simple and easy manner so that it reaches the masses. Sri Ajaya Kumar Naik, IFS PCCF (Research & IT), Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in his address explained the importance of utilization of bioresources for public use. Sh. A. S. Rawat, IFS, DG, ICFRE Dehradun inaugurated the RRC and delivered inaugural address and he stated that this year it is decided to have a theme based RRC. This theme has been identified looking into the challenges faced in managing the vast bioresources available in the forestry sector. This theme would provide scope for valorization of the forest resources, bringing in economy to both the urban and rural regions of the country.

Technical Session on Stakeholders perspective on scope for valorization began with the overview of research work at ICFRE-Institute of Wood Science and technology, Bengaluru by Shri C. M Shivakumar, IFS, GC(R), ICFRE-IWST. He detailed on the various activities of the Institute. Dr. R. Yasodha, GC(R), ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore gave an overview of research work at ICFRE-IFGTB on the theme of the conference. Added to the theme the speakers shared their experience and knowledge on various topics viz., Bioresources for bioenergy by Shri. K. Jayakumar, Senior Manager & Dr. P. Chezhan, Manager (Plantation) Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Paper Limited, Karur; Bioprospecting of Natural colourants by Dr. S. Grace Annapoorani, Professor, Bharathiar

University, Coimbatore; Prospecting of potential biologically active constituents of medicinal value from forest genetic resources by Dr Mini Raj, Consultant, State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) Kerala; Bioprospecting of Natural Compounds of Food from forest resources by Dr. K. Devi, Assistant Professor, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore and Wood as a bioresource – Trends and perspectives by Dr. Shakti Singh Chauhan, Scientist-G & Head, Wood Properties and Processing Division, IWST, Bengaluru.

During the discussion on research needs various representatives of Universities and industries shared their views. Dr. E.V. Anoop, Dean, College of Forestry, Kerala Agriculture University described the activities of the university taken up to ensure sustainability of wood as a bioresource. He also mentioned about the ecorestoration efforts of Kerala to convert poor performing plantations into secondary forests / indigenous fast growing species to support timber demand. Dr. Kunhamu, College of Forestry, Kerala Agriculture University, adding to the views of Dr. Anoop, mentioned the process of selecting the indigenous fast growing trees for ecorestoration process. Dr. R. Vasudeva, Professor, College of Forestry, Sirsi campus, UAS, Dharwad elaborated on the scope for utilization of FGRs as bioresources. He described the importance of resource base assessment, an important activity to be taken up when bioresources have to be taken up for valorization. Dr. Ramakrishna Hegde, Professor and Head Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry, College of Forestry, Ponnampet added information on researchable issues in bioresources & valorization which reduce solid waste. He also insisted for valorization of bamboo based products, biochar etc. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor and Head. Silviculture, FC & RI, TNAU, Mettupalayam mentioned about exploration and documentation of indigenous species needed for local requisite and tradition. He added convergence of technologies to enhance productivity and waste land needs to be green covered. In the plenary session Dr. R. Yasodha, GC(R), ICFRE-IFGTB summed up the conference. The recommendations were also drawn based on discussion meeting. The conference ended with formal vote of thanks by the conference coordinator Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist-F, Chemistry and Bioprospecting Division, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore.



Inaugural address by Chief Patron Sh. A. S. Rawat, IFS, DG, ICFRE Dehradun



Welcome address by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore



Overview of research work at ICFRE-IFGTB by Dr. R. Yasodha, GC(R), ICFRE-IFGTB



Bioprospecting of Natural colourants by the speaker Dr. S. Grace Annapoorani, Professor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore



Discussion by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor and Head, Silviculture, FC & RI, TNAU, Mettupalayam



Discussion on research needs by experts