

REPORT ON TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SANDALWOOD

18th - 22nd February 2019, at IWST - Bengaluru

Short term training on “Sandalwood – seed handling, nursery & plantation technology” for five days was conducted in the month of February by Genetics and Tree Improvement Division, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore. The training was aimed at encompassing the different aspects of growing sandalwood from its seed to the final marketing of sandalwood.

The training programme consisted of 41 participants from various states of the country primarily from Maharashtra (16), Karnataka (7), Andhra Pradesh (8), Telangana (3), Madhya Pradesh (2), Uttar Pradesh (2), Tamil Nadu (2), and Bihar (1). The inaugural session of the training was initiated with a welcome address by Course Director Dr. B.N. Divakara, Scientist E and Head, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division, IWST. This was followed by participants introducing themselves simultaneously giving their expectations from the training. Shri Mohan Karnat, IFS, Director and Dr. K.K. Pandey, Scientist-G and Group Co-ordinator Research, IWST delivered the inaugural speech addressing the participants. In continuation, the chief guest Shri Sanjai Mohan, IFS, PCCF & MD, KSFDC also addressed the participants. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. P.V. Somashekar, ACTO, GTI Division, IWST.



The participants were given a brief overview of how the five day training program would be conducted along with a brief introduction to sandalwood by Dr. B.N. Divakara. This was followed by a talk on sandalwood nursery and seed technology by Dr. P.V. Somashekar. In the post lunch session, hands-on-training was given to the participants on sandalwood seed and nursery technology at IWST nursery. In the evening all the participants were taken on a short tour of IWST including the laboratories, nursery and the museum by Mrs. Sreedevi, C.N., Technician, GTI Division.



The second day of the training was in progress with a talk by Dr. P.K. Basavaraju, Professor, GKVK on application of soil suitability for sandalwood tree cultivation. In continuation, Dr. B.N. Divakara discussed in detail regarding the general guidelines in sandalwood plantation management.



Dr. Nagaraj, Retd. Professor, AICRP, GKVK elaborated on the sandalwood based Agroforestry systems. In the post lunch session, Dr. R. Sundararaj, Scientist-G and Head, FWP Division, IWST discussed about the management of insects and pests in sandalwood nursery and plantation.



This was followed by a talk on applications of bio-fertilizers in nursery and sandalwood plantation from Mrs. Sreedevi, C.N., Technician, GTI Division. Mr. B.S. Chandrashekar, Scientist-E, CBP Division, IWST delivered a talk on sandalwood utilization and assessment of oil content in sandalwood, followed by a demonstration of oil extraction from sandalwood samples.



The third day of the training program commenced with an address by Dr. K.T. Chandrashekar, ACTO, CBP Division on protection of sandalwood plantation and sandalwood trade. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Narendrappa, Professor and University Head, GKVK on the aspects of managing diseases in sandalwood nursery and plantation. Mr. Venkatesh Gowda, General Manager (Retd.), KSDL elaborately discussed on the products of sandalwood and its marketing. In the afternoon session, Dr. P.V. Somashekar, ACTO, GTI Division explained in detail about the economics of sandalwood w.r.t different agroforestry models. The final discussion of the day was on the estimation of growth, yield and heartwood in sandalwood trees by Dr. H.R. Prabhudda, IFS and DCF, IWST.



The fourth day of the sandalwood training was entirely dedicated to field visit and interaction with farmers who had cultivated sandalwood plantations.



On the last day of the training, Mr. Ramesh Balutgi, a progressive farmer who has cultivated sandalwood shared his experience and viewpoint on growing sandalwood. This was followed by a talk-cum-discussion on success stories of sandalwood plantations across the globe by Mr. H.S. Ananthapadmanabha, Scientist – E (Retd.), IWST.





Mr. V. Soundararajan, Scientist C, IT Cell, IWST also discussed in detail on e-protection of sandalwood trees. Then Shri B.K. Dikshit, IFS, APCCF (FRM), KFD discussed in detail on policies and schemes of State Forest Department for encouraging sandalwood cultivation.

The evening session was dedicated for the interaction of participants with all the experts and gathering the feedback of participants with respect to the usefulness of the training program. The five days training on sandalwood was concluded with a valedictory function and distribution of certificates and training material to the trainees.

