

**VISIT OF Dr. SURESH GAIROLA, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun
To
INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE**

Dr. Suresh Gairola, IFS, DG, ICFRE visited Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 24.05.19. Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB along with Officers and Scientists welcomed DG, ICFRE.

DG, ICFRE visited Model Nursery, IFGTB along with Director, IFGTB, Head, SFM Division and Head, Extension. Mr. Maria Dominic Savio, Scientist explained the nursery activities on assemblage of bamboo species and accessions obtained from RFRI, Jorhat. Nearly 9000 plants of 34 species of Bamboo are currently in the mother beds of the nursery for further multiplication. He also briefed DG, ICFRE on the NBM Scheme and strategies worked out with BTSG, ICFRE and State Bamboo Mission for Bamboo planting in farm lands on cluster approach. Shri. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Head, SFM Division briefly explained about the ongoing research activities in the Model Nursery.

Later on DG, ICFRE visited Bamboo Hi-Tech Nursery, IFGTB and inaugurated the Bamboo clone bank in the Hi-Tech Nursery by planting a *Bambusa arundinacea* seedling. It is important to note IFGTB is setting up clone bank of Bamboo in Forest Campus and Forest Research Station at Panampally, Kerala under the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) Programme. Shri. Maria Dominic Savio, Scientist explained on the plan of activities for 2019-20 envisaged in the NBM project for establishment of Bamboo Hi-Tech nursery.

DG, ICFRE also visited Vegetative Multiplication Garden. Dr. R. Yasodha, Head of Division, Plant biotechnology explained in detail on the activities and ongoing projects funded by DBT. Dr. A. Nicodemus, Head, GTI Division explained on the process of selection of clones, licensing for nursery growers, generation of clonal propagules and supply to end users.

DG, ICFRE later on visited Plant Biotechnology laboratories. The DG recalled his earlier visit to the tissue culture laboratory and enquired about the progress of the annexe to the lab coming up under the NBM funded project on Strengthening of the TC lab at IFGTB. Dr Rekha Warriar explained the various activities which were initiated in TC Lab. The DG enquired about the different bamboo species initiated in the TC lab and inspected their growth in culture. He advised to complete the work of the annexe at the earliest so that the congestion in the existing lab could be eased up.

The Institute's ongoing research work and the achievements made were presented to DG, ICFRE through a short film titled "Journey of IFGTB". Later, Dr. Mohit Gera,

Director, IFGTB made a brief presentation on the salient research works carried out under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) and action plan vis-a-vis the National priorities. His presentation focused on the products and technologies developed by IFGTB and the efforts taken for popularizing the technologies and proposed plan for transfer of technologies for various stakeholders. Highlights of important projects won recently were made and concerned Scientists specifically on the salient works carried out and proposed their action plan. During the interaction with the Heads of the Division, Officers and Scientists, Dr. Suresh Gairola, DG, ICFRE appreciated the achievements made by IFGTB in the recent past and need for improving on the good reputation it has among stakeholders within the country.

On the occasion, DG, ICFRE released a Book on **“Insect Pests of Medicinal plants and their Management”**, authored by Dr. John Prashanth Jacob, Scientist & Dr. Rekha Warriar, Scientist, Mobile App on **“Forest Tree Diseases”** in Tamil by IFGTB ENVIS-RP supported by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist, and the Proceedings of the National Workshop on **“Securing Wood Demand through Enhancing Productivity of Planted Forest”** by Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist.

In the afternoon, DG, ICFRE visited Karunya University campus field area and inspected clonal trials of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and genetic gain trial of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and similar trials of Casuarina.

Later on DG, ICFRE & Director, IFGTB along with team of officers and scientists called on Sadhguru Shri Jaggi Vasudev at the Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore and apprised him on NAEB, MoEF&CC funded national project on **“Preparation of DPR for 9 major river of India through Forestry Intervention”** being executed by ICFRE and informed him the objective of the project and presented a copy of the project. Sadhguru appreciated the project and wished ICFRE the success in this endeavors. Sadhguru presented a copy of **“Revitalization of rivers in India”** to DG, ICFRE. The meeting also focused on the key role of Civil Society in rejuvenation of river systems. Prior to the meeting with Sadhguru, Shri Anand Ethirajulu, Project Director in Isha Outreach Programme on ‘Rally for Rivers’ briefed about the works undertaken by Isha to revitalize River Wghadi in Yavatmal District in Eastern Maharashtra by converging exiting schemes of the Govt. of Maharashtra.

Director
IFGTB



Dr. Suresh Gairola, IFS, DG, ICFRE visiting “Augumentation of Bamboo mother plants” nursery



DG, ICFRE visiting the Model Nursery, IFGTB

Planting by DG, ICFRE at Bamboo Hi tech nursery



DG, ICFRE during his visit in Vegetative Multiplication Garden, IFGTB

Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB felicitating Dr. Suresh Gairola, DG, ICFRE



Book release on “Insect Pests of Medicinal plants and their Management”



Release of Mobile App of “Forest Tree Diseases” in Tamil



Release of Proceedings of the National Workshop on “Securing Wood Demand through Enhancing Productivity of Planted Forest”



Dr. Suresh Gairola, DG, ICFRE felicitating Dr. A. Balu, Scientist IFGTB for his superannuation in May 2019