



Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
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Training Report on Teak Cultivation Practices in Tamil Nadu

The training on Teak Cultivation Practices in Tamil Nadu was conducted for the forest officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department on 30 and 31 January 2020. It was organised under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), GoI funded project on “Documentation of population demography and genetic structure of teak for developing sustainable conservation strategies and resource management” with the main objective of introducing the importance of teak genetic resources and modern silviculture methods.

On 30 January 2020, the Training started with an inauguration session. Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Training Co-ordinator welcomed the dignitaries, subject experts and participants and provided an overview of the training schedule. Dr. S. Muruesan, Director, IFGTB delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the importance of conservation of teak genetic resources and promotion of teak cultivation in farmlands. Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Dean, Forest College & Research Institute (TNAU), Mettupalayam released the training manual and presented the Keynote address with the emphasis on the cultivation of timber species including teak and approaches for increasing the marketability. Inaugural session was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Head, Plant Biotechnology Division.



The importance of teak genetic resources was explained by Dr. R. Yasodha followed with a lecture on concepts of tree improvement of teak and nuances involved in establishment of seed orchards by Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist F, who currently works on development of DUS descriptors of teak for PPV & FRA. Problems in seed germination and quality seedling production in teak was discussed by Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist F, she works on seed handling programs of different tree species including teak for the past twenty years. In the afternoon, a field visit was arranged to Karunya field station of IFGTB and Teak plantations in Sadivayal. Dr. V. Sivakumar and Dr. R. Anandalakshmi demonstrated tree selection methods for seed collection and clonal production. Participants were divided into groups and hands on experience for enumeration and assessment of trees for selection was provided.



On 31 January 2020, tissue culture of teak, performance of tissue culture raised plants in farmer's field and supply of quality propagules by IFGTB was deliberated by Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist F, she is currently involved in laying on-farm field trials and supply of tissue culture teak plants. Modern silviculture techniques on establishment of teak plantations were explained by Dr.C. Buveneswaren, Scientist F. He is involved in silvicultural techniques of teak since 1998 and demonstrated several novel agroforestry models for teak.

A separate session on insect pest and pathogen problems in teak nursery, pure plantations and in agroforestry conditions were explained in detail by Dr. J.P. Jacob, Scientist G and Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Scientist F respectively. Prevention and management measures using biocontrol agents were deliberated. A visit to tissue culture facility was conducted and handling of tissue



culture raised plants was discussed. Visit to the vegetative propagation complex for a period of two hours was made to demonstrate bud and cleft grafting methods and cuttings propagation techniques. The propagation structures such as naturally ventilated green house and cost effective polytunnels for mass clonal propagation were explained.

Participants were highly attentive throughout the training period and readily raised questions and sought clarifications. Some of the topics kindled their interest and were curious in knowing about the modern techniques of cultivation. During the feedback session the participants expressed the need for such trainings in future to learn methodologies and



approaches for the important forest tree species planted in Tamil Nadu. They were of the opinion that such specific trainings would help in implementing field activities by scheduling actions for seed collection, raising and maintenance of nurseries and plantation maintenance. Certificate for the successful completion of training was distributed to all the participants. The two days training came to conclusion with closing remarks by Dr.S. Murugesan, Director, IFGTB with the acknowledgements to Tamil Nadu Forest Department for deputing the officials.
