

**A Report on Training on “Bioprospecting and Biopiracy”
Under
“Forestry Training and Capacity building” for other stakeholders
10-12 October, 2017**

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has organised three days training sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change, Government of India on **“Bioprospecting and Biopiracy” under “Forestry Training and Capacity building” for other stakeholders during 10-12 October, 2017**. A sum of 30 participants from various stakeholders including representatives from nature club/eco club members, social activists, doctors, media persons, NGOs from Animal Welfare And Rural Development Trust, Pasumai Desam, Nilal Maiyam, OSAI Environmental Organization, Agro Forestry farmer Producer Co Ltd, WWE and Tribal Association, Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) participated in the training. The prime objective of the training was to create awareness on biodiversity wealth of our country to the public through NGOs, media persons and social activists, and make them understand the importance of forest bio resources, ITK on bioprospecting, its sustainable use, legal issues like Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) associated with the transport of the material, the scope, challenges and prospects of forest resources with reference to bioprospecting and biopiracy.

The programme started with an inaugural session on 10th October 2017 followed by a brief Institute presentation. During inaugural function Shri R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB informed that the availability of medicinal plants are depleting day by day. Most of our ailments are being treated by traditional healers using locally available medicinal plants since time immemorial. Multi National Companies are also trapping their knowledge without remuneration to them. Therefore, the training focussed to give input on it. Dr. S. Murugesan, Group Coordinator Research, informed that most of the high value drugs are derived from natural resources and has lot of bioprospecting potential. Hence, every citizen of this country should know about the importance of plant wealth and their utilization for bioprospecting and biopiracy. The training coordinator Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist E, briefed about the training and Smt. R. Sumathi, Research officer welcomed the participants.

The technical session included the presentations on Bioprospecting of forest resources; Biopiracy, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), ABS and Patent; Biodiversity Act 2002; Bioprospecting and Biotechnology; Bioprospecting of Natural pigments; Herbals for Head to Toe: Bioprospecting values; Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) and Bioprospecting; Bioprospecting and Siddha and Microbial prospecting. The resource persons involved in this training were Dr. S. Murugesan, Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Dr.A.

Rajasekaran, Dr. K.R. Sasidharan, Dr. R. Arivukkarasu, Dr. V. Azhagarasi, Dr. Rekha Warriar, Dr. D. Thangamani, Dr. S.R. Prabakaran and Dr. S. Periyasamy. Participants were also exposed to various laboratories and nurseries. An interactive session was specially made for the participants to share their experiences and activities being carried out in their eco club/nature club and other NGOs firms.

Participants were also taken to field trip to Sadivayal, where they were exposed to tribal hamlets and had interactions with them on traditional knowledge and use of medicinal plants for various ailments.

Recommendations were drawn during panel discussion and most of the participants opined that the training duration may be extended to five days, such trainings for school and college students and exclusively for media persons need to be imparted. Dr. S. Murugesan, Group Coordinator Research, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore distributed certificates to the participants after felicitation address. The programme ended with formal vote of thanks by Smt.R.Sumathi, RO, followed by tree planting ceremony at the institute premises. Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-E, Dr. K. Paneerselvam, Scientist-D, Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist-C, Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist C, Shri K. Giresan, Research officer-I, Smt. R. Sumathi, Research officer-I, Smt. R. Lakshmidevi, Technical Officer and Shri S. Sundararajan, Assistant were involved in the training.











