

**One day training on**  
**“Capacity building on the development of Tree rich biobooster to Irular tribes in forest fringe villages of Coimbatore, Tamilnadu: An alternate source of livelihood support”**  
**On 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**  
**at**  
**Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore**

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has developed a bio-product namely **Treerich Biobooster**, an alternate organic potting mixture for raising nursery. The tree rich biobooster is developed using coconut fibre waste (locally available in plenty and cost effective) and beneficial microorganisms. The biobooster is nutrient rich, organic, ecofriendly and cost effective, hence received overwhelming response from various stakeholders. Therefore, IFGTB has decided to transfer it to Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) of Irular tribes to improve their livelihood. Irular tribes fully depend on forests for their income. In order to reduce the pressure on forests and forest produce, capacity building on this developed technology will be an alternate source for their income and livelihood as well. Therefore, one day training on the development of biobooster has been imparted to WSHGs of Irular tribes inhabiting forest fringe village of Senkuttai, Coimbatore District. Eighteen Irular Tribes from Senkuttai village were trained in various aspects of the development of the bio product **Treerich Biobooster** which included selection of raw materials, processing, evaluation and preparation of disc using coir pit disc making machine. WSHGs were given hands on training to operate the coir pith disc making machine individually. The training was conducted under the project entitled “**Transfer of products/technology on biobooster to Irular tribes in forest fringe villages of Coimbatore, Tamilnadu: An alternate source of livelihood support**” sponsored by Natural Resource Data Management System (NRDMS-DST), Govt. of India New Delhi. This is an approach towards the livelihood support to Irular tribes in forest fringe villages to alleviate their poverty. The consumers such as farmers, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations and plantation companies may benefit through increased productivity through organic farming. Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director inaugurated the training and insisted the WSHGs to enhance their skills through such trainings to become entrepreneur and to generate their own source of income. He also assured that this training will be an eye opening for the upcoming Scale up project in which a separate Coir pith Disc making machine will be installed in their premises forming a cluster of five such villages and linkage will also be established for market. The director has active interaction with the tribes to assess their interest towards the technology and further improvement in their skill. Dr. S. Murugesan, GCR informed the trainees to learn each and every step of the techniques of preparation of the product thoroughly and use the technology for their livelihood. Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist É, Head, Division of Chemistry and Bioprospecting and the Training Co-ordinator briefed the importance of the training and conducted the training with the support of Smt. R. Sumathi, Smt. R. Lakshmidēvi, Shri R. Sathish Kumar and research scholars. The training programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by the training co-ordinator.



**Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director IFGTB addressed the Women SHG trainees**



**Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist- G & Group Co- ordinator Research addressed the trainees**





**Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB presenting the training kit to the trainees**



**Participants learning**





**Learning process of Tree Rich Biobooster disc making**



**Tree Rich Biobooster Discs making**