

## PROJECT PROFILE

**Title:** Value addition of Acacia resources of the Nilgiris for employment generation and livelihood support

**Principle Investigators:** Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist-E

**Duration:** 2013-2015

**Objectives:**

1. To evaluate the essential oils of Black wattle flowers / seeds and assess its insecticidal properties
2. Capacity building of local communities for commercial extraction of wattle flower oil
3. Assessment of wattle seeds for nutritive and anti-nutritive factors
4. Development of food / feed supplements / additives from wattle seeds

**Funding Agency:** Hill Area Development Programme

**Summary**

- ❖ New areas of investigation were attempted in this project to check for possibilities of utilising an invasive weed in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ The possibility of using naturally occurring compounds from seeds and pods of *A. mearnsii* to reduce insect damage turned out to be a success especially since the aqueous extract was observed to have insecticidal properties. The study thus finds practical applications in field conditions as extracts of the seeds / pods could be used as sprays to control pests in agricultural fields in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ A commercially viable extraction protocol for the aromatic oil of the flowers has been developed. Since huge quantities of the flowers are being extracted from the forests by the fragrance industries, the forest dependent communities of the Nilgiris would be able to adopt the same to support their livelihood just as eucalyptus oil is being produced and marketed by self help groups.
- ❖ The nutritive value assessment of the pods revealed that the species lacks antinutritional factor. With appropriate fortification, the species has high potential use in development of food / feed products which can be marketed by the self help groups of the Nilgiris.