

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 15th July, 2019

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has organised one day training on **“Capacity building on the development of Tree Rich Biobooster”** for the indigenous dwellers of Senkuttai, Kuliur, Gopanari, Pattavayal and Maelpavi villages of Anaikatti, Coimbatore district on 15th July, 2019 at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The training was organised 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. About 25 Irular tribes, members of WSHGs in particular participated in the training.

“Tree Rich Biobooster” is a well nourished bioproduct which can be used as a comprehensive potting mix. It has been developed by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. The usage of this product reduces nursery cost and enhances the growth performances and yield of crops. The Tree Rich Biobooster is developed using coconut fibre waste (cost effective and locally available in plenty) duly decomposed using beneficial microorganisms. The biobooster is nutrient rich, organic, ecofriendly and cost effective, hence received overwhelming response from various stakeholders besides the market. It has increasing demand in domestic as well as global market. Due to its market potential, IFGTB has decided to transfer the technology to improve the livelihood of the Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) of Irular tribes who wholly depend on forests for their income. In order to reduce the pressure on forests and forest produce, capacity building on this developed technology and its operationalization is expected to provide an alternate source for their income and livelihood as well and an approach to alleviate their poverty.

Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore inaugurated the training program and informed that Senkuttai village has been selected as demo village. He insisted that the participants should get trained about the preparation of “Tree Rich Biobooster” using the coir pith disc making machine, since the facility to develop “Tree Rich Biobooster” will be created in Senkuttai village where WSHGs from a cluster of 5 villages near Senkuttai will be beneficiary of the facility. He also advised the tribes to enhance their skill through such trainings to become entrepreneur and to generate their own source of income. He also informed that the whole enterprise will have to be run under a society mode so that it becomes a legal entity with inbuilt mechanism for having office bearers,

decision making, funds utilization, proper financial system and assignment of duties and responsibilities. He stressed the need for team work and expected cooperation from one and all. He also assured that other IFGTB activities will also be spread to the Demo village. Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist- G and Group Coordinator Research assured that this training will uplift the participants standard of living, children education and to meet their day to day requirements through the income generation out of “Tree Rich Biobooster” technology.

Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist É, and the Training Co-ordinator briefed the importance of the training and insisted the trainees to learn each and every step of the technique with respect to preparation of the product thoroughly for their income generation and livelihood. A detailed demonstration was given to the trainees utilizing the raw materials necessary for the product preparation. Various aspects of the development of the bioproduct “**Tree Rich Biobooster**” which included selection of raw materials, processing, compost making, preparation of discs, and evaluation of their efficacy were demonstrated to them in detail with all necessary materials. The consumers of this product especially farmers, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations and plantation companies may benefit through increased productivity. Smt. R. Sumathi, Smt. K.S. Rathinam and Shri M. Jeya Kumar were also involved in imparting the training. The training programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by the training co-ordinator Dr. N. Senthilkumar.



Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director addressing the trainees



Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director with the trainees



Members of tribal WSHGs undergoing training to operate the coir pith disc making machine