

FIELD FUNCTIONARY TRAINING ON NURSERY TECHNIQUES

(Fourth Batch)

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) has been organizing *Training on Nursery Techniques* from 10th to 24th July, 2019 for Forest Field Functionaries, like Foresters, Forest Guards, Joint Forest Management Members, Eco-Development Committee Members under Eastern Assam Circle comprising of seven Forest Divisions such as Jorhat, Golaghat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Doomdooma and Digboi. The training is sponsored by Assam Forest Department utilizing fund under CAMPA to train 100 Forest Field Functionaries. Training will be completed in 4 batches (10-12 July, 2019; 15-17 July, 2019; 18-20 July, 2019 and 22-24 July, 2019) consisting of 25 trainees in each batch. The training mainly focuses on production of quality planting stock in forestry, including various subjects such as seed management, nursery practices of bamboo, bamboo identification, plus tree selection, composting, Biofertilizer, disease-pest management, vegetative propagation methods, genetic improvement etc.

Fourth Batch of the training was inaugurated on 22nd July, 2019 by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat. In his welcome speech, Dr. Jayaraj put emphasis on producing quality planting materials for higher productivity of plantations. He told that quality of plant material is more important than that of quantity.

Sri R. K. Kalita, Course Director of the training elaborated the details of training schedule and the subjects to be covered during the training in inauguration session.

In the first Technical Session, Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat delivered a presentation on principles of nursery practices and various ways to produce quality planting material for higher production and productivity.

Shri Prasanta Saikia, Technical Officer, RFRI delivered detailed presentation on Seed Management. In his presentation, Shri Saikia taught about various basic concepts of seed management. He explained about classification of seeds, characteristics of good quality seeds, collection of seed from field, seed processing, seed testing, seed treatment, seed storage, seed grading, seed cleaning, seed certification etc.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI taught about the basic principles of nursery practices. He provided basic and applied information and guidance on how to start a nursery and explained about the steps involved in growing quality tree seedlings.

Dr. Prasanta Hazarika, ACTO, RFRI delivered presentation on biofertilizer and its application for production of quality planting stock.

Md. Ibrahim, Scientist D, RFRI delivered presentation on various vegetative methods of propagation. He explained air layering, grafting, cutting, budding and demonstrated the processes involved in it.

On the second day, Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist E, RFRI delivered a detailed presentation on bamboo propagation methods, nursery management and commercial cultivation. Shri Debojit Neog, Technical Officer taught the identifying characters of various species of bamboos. He along with Shri Kumud Bora, Technical Officer guided the participants to the Bambusetum and demonstrated the various identifying characters bamboos. Shri Kumud Bora gave hands-on training on bamboo propagation methods and nursery practices. The Trainees also visited the Bamboo Composite Unit.

On the third day, Dr. Nizara Barthakur, Scientist C, RFRI delivered presentation on insect-pest problems in forest nurseries and plantations and their management. She taught on various categories of pests according to nature of damage, such as root feeders, stem borer, shoot borer, defoliator, sap sucker, etc.

Dr. R. K. Borah, Scientist F, RFRI delivered presentation on diseases of forest nursery and plantation and their management. He taught diseases of bamboo, shisham, pine, sal etc and their management. He also explained about broad principles of disease management practices in nursery.

Shri Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Technical Officer, RFRI sensitized the participants on composting and vermicomposting. He also guided the trainees to the composting unit and demonstrated various composting processes.

Valedictory Session was organized in the last day of the training. Shri R. K. Das, Conservator of Forests, Eastern Assam Circle, Jorhat graced the Session as Chief Guest. Shri Das addressed the participants.

The participants also appreciated RFRI and expressed their deep sense of gratitude to the Institute.

Certificates were distributed to the participants in the Valedictory Session.

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