



TRAINING
ON
QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION IN NURSERY
ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)
Ulundurpet, Viluppuram Circle

Training on Quality Planting Material Production in Nursery (QPM) for Assistant Conservator of Forest, Forest Range Officers, Foresters, Forest Guards, and Forest Watchers of the Viluppuram Circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, was successfully organized by ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, as part of the UK-Darwin Initiative. The event was held on 26th September 2024 at Forest Extension Centre in Ulundurpet, Viluppuram Circle. The training was witnessed with the participation of 45 forest officials from Viluppuram, Cuddalore and Kallakuruchi district of Tamil Nadu. All eager to enhance their knowledge and skills in nursery management and quality planting material production. **Shri. R. Velumani, Technical Officer**, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests and participants, setting a positive tone for the event. This was followed by an introductory address by **Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist** and Training In-Charge at ICFRE-IFGTB, who highlighted the critical importance of producing high-quality planting materials in nurseries for the successful establishment of tree plantation in forest and Tree outside forest. He provided a detailed overview of the objectives and scope of the training, emphasizing the role of QPM in improving forest regeneration and productivity. His address laid a strong foundation for the subsequent technical sessions.

Shri Sumesh Soman, IFS, District Forest Officer, Viluppuram, delivered a Presidential address during the training session, emphasizing the importance of the program. In his Presidential address, he highlighted the significant impact this training would have on forest

department staff, enabling them to produce Quality Planting Material (QPM) not only for forestry purposes but also for horticultural crops, thus broadening its scope of application. During his speech, Shri Sumesh Soman proudly mentioned that the Ulundurpet Extension Centre had successfully planted 2.64 lakhs forest seedlings across the district, with an impressive 100% survival. He underscored this achievement as a testament to the department's dedication and effective nursery management practices.

Furthermore, he shared that the District Collector of Viluppuram had specifically requested information on the methodology of Casuarina production, recognizing the value of the QPM training in addressing such needs. Shri Sumesh Soman affirmed that the training would equip forest officials with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce high-quality planting materials, contributing to the district's ongoing TCPL (Tree Cultivation in Private Lands) programs. He concluded by emphasizing the long-term benefits of the QPM training, not only for forestry but also for broader land restoration and productivity initiatives.

Shri. A. Periasamy, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Viluppuram Circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, inaugurated the QPM training program with an inspiring inaugural address. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Director of ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such a highly valuable and timely training session. Shri. A. Periasamy emphasized the critical importance of Quality Planting Material (QPM) in forest management and acknowledged the growing need to address the gap in technical knowledge within the forest department related to QPM production.

He highlighted that the core responsibilities of the forest department, protection, conservation, and increasing the green cover are being undermined by a lack of understanding of QPM, which has resulted in reduced forest health and productivity. He underscored the need for restoring this knowledge, emphasizing that quality planting material is key to ensuring a healthy and sustainable green cover across the region.

In his address, Shri. A. Periasamy stressed the importance of forest cover and reiterated the national goal of achieving 33% forest cover, while pointing out that Viluppuram currently has only 10% forest cover. He urged participants to work diligently toward improving forest cover of the circle, particularly through focused efforts in water body conservation and wasteland restoration using high-quality planting materials. He also mentioned the need to protect high-

ordered water bodies and reclaim wastelands, highlighting the role of effective QPM production in achieving these objectives.

He expressed confidence that this training would bridge the knowledge gap and equip Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) staff with the skills needed to produce their own high-quality seedlings, ensuring better nursery practices and more successful reforestation outcomes.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of practical implementation of the knowledge gained from the training. Shri. A. Periasamy encouraged the participants to apply the insights from the program in their day-to-day work, improving the long-term sustainability of forestry efforts across the Viluppuram Circle.

Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer at ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the vote of thanks during the inaugural session, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) for their invaluable support and partnership in organizing the event. He also extended sincere appreciation to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and commitment to the training. Dr. Vigneswaran further acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the technical team, whose expertise and contributions ensured the smooth execution of the program. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration in strengthening forestry initiatives.

Technical session

The resource persons of ICFRE-IFGTB made presentation on different topics as detailed below:

1. **Basics on need for QPM in forestry** - Shri A. Mayavel
2. **Identification of source of planting material** - Dr T. Vamadevan
3. **Good Practices of Fruit Collection, Seed Extraction and Storage** – Shri. K. Suresh Kumar
4. **Vegetative propagation** – Shri. R. Velumani
5. **Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock** - Dr. S. Vigneswaran
6. **Nursery pest and disease control**- Shri K. Senthil

The experts from ICFRE-IFGTB generously shared their extensive knowledge and expertise throughout the training session, providing participants with valuable insights into the current status and critical needs of Quality Planting Material (QPM) production. Their presentations were rich with information, offering a detailed overview of best practices and innovations in the field. In addition to the informative talks, the participants benefited from hands-on training sessions that covered a wide range of essential topics such as seed testing, germination techniques, and vegetative propagation. These interactive sessions were designed to give the forest department staff direct, practical experience with the key aspects of QPM production, ensuring that they gained a solid grasp of the concepts being taught.

By actively participating in these sessions, the attendees not only deepened their understanding of the processes involved but also acquired practical skills that they could immediately implement in their daily work. This approach made the training highly effective, as it empowered participants to return to their nurseries and forestry projects equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to enhance both the quality and success of planting efforts. The combination of theoretical insights and practical application has undoubtedly set the stage for more efficient and informed nursery practices, benefitting both the forestry and horticulture sectors in the long term.

Feedback session & Valedictory

During the feedback session, participants expressed a strong desire for more hands-on training, emphasizing its critical role in enhancing their skill development, especially at the ground level, which would greatly benefit the production of Quality Planting Material (QPM). They conveyed sincere appreciation to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such valuable training, acknowledging its pivotal role in shaping future QPM production efforts.

Shri B. Uma Shankar, ACF, Forest Extension Officer of the Forest Extension Centre, Ulundurpet, and Shri Iqbal, ACF, Forest Extension Officer of the Forest Extension Centre, Neyveli, presided over the Valedictory Function of the training program. Both officers expressed their deep gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such a fruitful and impactful event, which provided valuable knowledge and practical insights to the participants. They highlighted the importance of continued learning and capacity building in ensuring the success of forestry initiatives.

As part of the ceremony, certificates of participation were awarded to all trainees by Shri B. Uma Shankar, Shri Iqbal, TNFD and Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist at ICFRE-IFGTB, in recognition of their active involvement and successful completion of the training.

Following the certificate distribution, Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Technical Officer, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore, delivered the vote of thanks. He expressed profound appreciation to the UK-Darwin Initiative for their generous financial support, which was instrumental in making the program a success. He also extended his gratitude to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the technical team, and all the participants for their dedication and contributions, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing Quality Planting Material (QPM) production and sustainable forestry practices.

Moreover, the feedback session served as a platform for participants to offer suggestions for future training programs, ensuring ongoing improvement and relevance to their needs in the field. This collaborative exchange fosters a culture of continuous learning and development within the forestry community, ultimately contributing to more effective and sustainable forest management practices.



Shri. A. Periasamy, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Viluppuram Circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, inaugurated the training programme



Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist and training in-charge, ICFRE-IFGTB Overview the QPM Training



Shri Sumesh Soman, IFS, District Forest Officer, Viluppuram, delivered a Presidential address



Presentation on Basics on need for QPM in forestry Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore



Presentation on Identification of source of planting material - Dr T. Vamadevan



Presentation Vegetative propagation - Mr R. Velumani



Presentation on Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock - Dr. S. Vigneswaran



Presentation on Nursery pest and disease control- Shri K. Senthil



Presentation on Good Practices of Fruit Collection, Seed Extraction and Storage

Shri. K. Suresh Kumar



Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist, ICFRE- IFGTB, Coimbatore, awarded the Certificates trainees



Group photo