

**REGIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON
MANAGEMENT OF FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS IN CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO**
20th November, 2019
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized the Southern Regional Research Conference (RRC) of Southern India on the topic “**Management of fragile ecosystems in climate change scenario**” on 20th November, 2019 . The objective of the conference was to provide a platform for researchers and forest managers to collectively understand the challenges encountered by fragile ecosystems like sholas, grasslands, riparian, mangroves and dry evergreen forests in the context of climate change, evolve possible management strategies and formulate research plans to fill up the information gap so as to conserve these ecosystems without further deterioration. Ninety participants including senior officials from 4 different State Forest Departments, Deans and Professors from Forest Colleges, scientists from IWST Bengaluru, and scientists/ professors from universities and other institutions, NGOs and Tree Growers attended the conference.

The conference was commenced with welcome address by Dr. S. Murugesan, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore. He remarked that the theme based periodical seminars greatly helped to fill the gaps in various aspects of forestry research. Dr. S.C. Gairola, Director General, ICFRE who was the guest of honour, in his speech informed that this RRC will be useful to formulate, prioritize and fill gaps of forestry research. He highlighted the importance of present RRC, which is 10th in the series at both global and regional level. He pointed out that fragile ecosystem like Mangrove, Desert and Tropical dry evergreen forests ecosystems are more vulnerable than any other ecosystems. Dr. Gairola called up on to draw very specific recommendations and actionable points out of this RRC, which would help to manage the fragile ecosystems of our country.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University inaugurated the conference and highlighted the vital role of different ecosystems and management practices and opined that human beings cannot prohibit changes, but only can manage or adapt to it . He pointed out report on the recent sea level rise, reasons and the management strategies to be adopted by planting salt tolerant species. He insisted for not just planting trees and leaving them to nature, but to nurture them further. He called up on the researchers to address about the management issues of wastelands and change to mitigate climate change.

Dr. N. Parthasarathy, Professor, Pondicherry University gave an overview on management of fragile ecosystems like tropical rain forest, scrub forest, shola-grasslands, mangroves and dry evergreen forests and pointed out various reasons for fragility and pattern of resource usage in these ecosystems. He suggested to study endemic and threatened species in such ecosystems, the inter-relationship between components of biodiversity and microbial species in dry as well as wet system, so as to include it in management strategies. He also stressed the need to utilize biotechnological tools in conservation of threatened resources. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist G and Organizing Secretary of the Conference proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

The dignitaries released a book namely "Insect pests of trees outside forests and their management" authored by Dr. Prashanth Jacob, Scientist G, Forest Protection Division, and a bio-pesticide named "Simca BC" (Bean of Paradise) developed by Dr. N. SenthilKumar, Scientist E, Chemistry and Bio-prospecting Division, IFGTB, Coimbatore. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between College of Forestry, Ponnampet, Karnataka and IFGTB, Coimbatore for research, education and training.

The conference had four technical sessions namely, Research/ Management activities in different sectors, Issues in Management of Shola – Grassland Ecosystems, Riverine and Mangrove Ecosystems and Dry Evergreen Forest Ecosystems. Altogether 10 talks were delivered and discussed during the conference including institutional activities by IFGTB, Coimbatore and IWST, Bengaluru; issues related to management of fragile ecosystems in different state forest departments of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and lead talks on four themes such as Issues in management of shola-grassland ecosystems; Management of Riverine and Mangrove ecosystems and issues in management of Dry Evergreen Forest ecosystems followed by brainstorming sessions. Wrap-up session under the chairmanship of Dr. S. C. Gairola, IFS, Director General, ICFRE, Dehra Dun was conducted for finalizing the recommendations and recommendations from all the technical sessions were discussed and finalized. The conference was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. S.Murugesan, Director, IFGTB Coimbatore.



Welcoming the Director General, ICFRE



Welcoming the Vice-Chancellor, TNAU



Audience during inaugural function



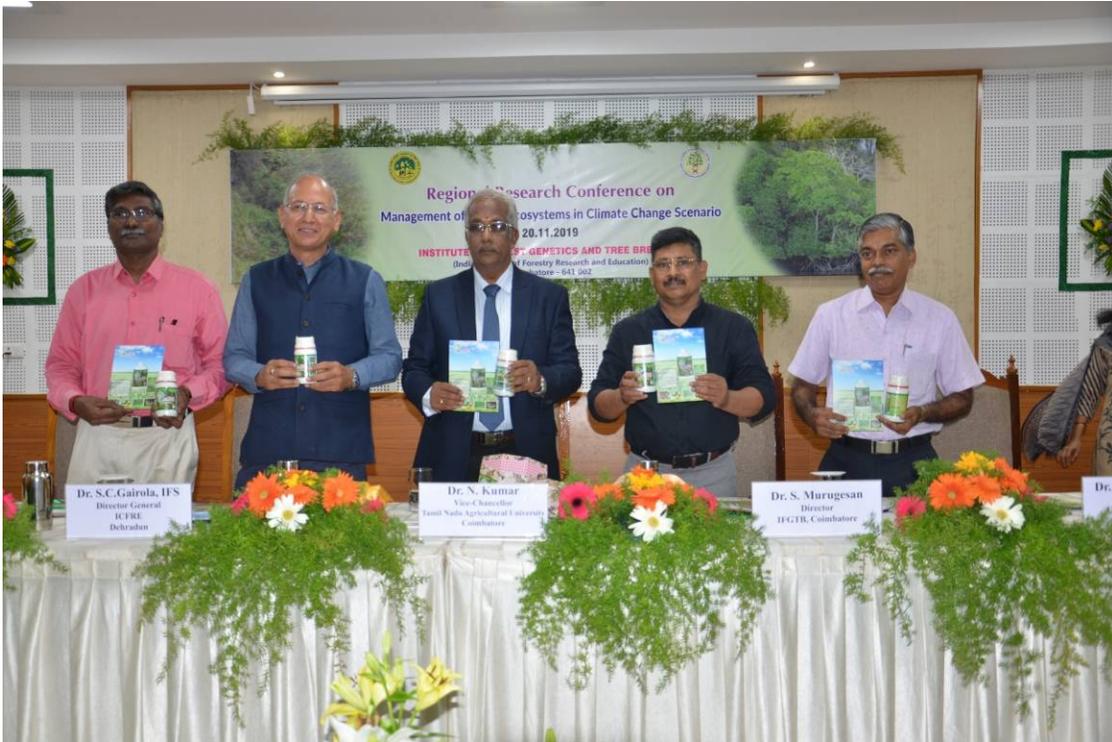
Speech by the Director General, ICFRE



Inaugural speech by Dr. N. Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor, TNAU



Overview on Theme of Conference by Dr. N. Parthasarathy , Professor, Pondicherry Univ.



Release of IFGTB Product-bio-pesticide "Simca BC"



Release of book namely "Insect pests of trees outside forests and their management"



MOU between College of Forestry, Ponnampet and IFGTB, Coimbatore



Presentation of research activities by Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore



Presentation of research activities on fragile ecosystems by Dr. C. Kunhikannan



Presentation of research activities of IWST by Dr.K.K.Pandey, Scientist G, IWST, Bengaluru.



Presentation on management issues in relation to fragile ecosystems in Tamil Nadu by Shri. V.Thirunavukarasu IFS, Addl. Director, TNFA.



Presentation on management issues in relation to fragile ecosystems in Kerala by Shri. Rajesh Raveendran IFS, CCF, Kerala



Presentation on management issues in relation to fragile ecosystems in Karnataka by Shri. Jag Mohan Sharma IFS, APCCF, Karnataka.



Presentation on management issues in relation to fragile ecosystems in Andhra Pradesh By Shri. V.B.Ramana Murthy IFS, PCCF(FR), Andhra Pradesh.



Presentation on management issues in relation to Shola-grassland ecosystems
By Dr. K. Kishore Kumar, Head, Dept. of Botany, Farook College, Calicut



Presentation on issues in relation to Mangrove ecosystems and Climate Change
By Dr. R. Ramasubramanian, Principal Scientist, MSSRF



Brainstorming session Lead speech on issues in relation to Shola-grassland Ecosystems
By Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, PCCF&HoFF (Retd.) Tamilnadu



Brainstorming session on issues in relation to Shola-grassland Ecosystems:
Discussion by Sri. Kalidasan, OSAI, Coimbatore



Brainstorming session on issues in relation to Reverine and Mangrove Ecosystems: Discussion





Brainstorming session on issues in relation to Dry Evergreen Forest ecosystems:
Discussion





Panel discussion and concluding session





Panel discussion and concluding session





Vote of thanks by Director IFGTB, Coimbatore