

NEW INITIATED: EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECT

Project 1: New biocontrol opportunities for prickly acacia : exploration in India. (IFGTB EF-RP 32/2008-2011)

Status: Availability data of young *Acacia nilotica* plantations with the State Forest divisions of 17 districts of Tamil Nadu and 3 districts of Karnataka were collected. Field visits were made to the plantations at these districts and 20 suitable sites for regular surveys selected. 2 rounds of Surveys at *Acacia nilotica* tank bed plantations, isolated trees in the agricultural lands and at the roadside at 63 locations in 17 districts of Tamil Nadu and 1 round of survey at 9 locations in 3 districts of Karnataka were carried out. About 48 species of insects and 13 species of pathogens infesting different parts of *A. nilotica* were documented

Out of 48 insect species, 29 were identified.

Out of 13 species of pathogens, 8 were identified

Herbarium of (32) host (19) and pathogens (13) and preservation and pinning and labeling of 48 species of insects were done.

Out of 48 species of insects and 13 species of pathogens recorded so far, 4 species of insects (1 sapsucker and 3 defoliators) and 6 species of pathogens were prioritized for further host specificity and pathogenicity studies. Stock culture of these species were raised and being maintained in the lab. Host specificity study with 2 species of defoliators and Pathogenicity study with 3 species of pathogenic fungi were initiated at the glass house. Exclusion trial to assess the impact of insects and pathogens on seedlings of *A. nilotica* has been established and 12 data on incidence of insects and pathogen and 6 data on growth parameters have so far been collected.

Project 2: Improving productivity of bamboo in farmlands of Tamil Nadu

Status: The project is funded by the National Bamboo Mission. During April-May 2008, a visit was made to North East India and planting stock for silvicultural trials and germplasm for the bambusetum were procured and assembled in Coimbatore from the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Around 30 species for bamboo germplasm bank were collected from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh while 24 candidate plus clumps (CPCs) for bamboo multiplication garden were assembled from Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam. Around 9,180 nos of quality planting stock belonging to 4 species for the silvicultural trials were assembled from Forest Department nurseries at Guwahati & Kokrajhar in Assam and from State Forest Research Institute, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Silvicultural trials have been established at Alagampatti, K. Nedungulam and Kayathar in Southern Agroclimatic Zone.

Project 3: A value chain on industrial agroforestry in Tamil Nadu

Status: In this project funded by the World Bank through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, as a part of the National Agricultural Innovation Project, through a Consortium consisting of Research Institutes, Paper industries and farmers, the Institute is required to

produce and supply genetically improved quality planting stock of Eucalyptus and Casuarina for planting in the farmers' fields and also identify new genetic material for improved productivity. During the year, a Vegetative Multiplication Garden of Eucalyptus was established over 0.5 ha and a clonal plantation of Eucalyptus was established over 1 ha. A progeny trial of *Casuarina equisetifolia* was established in 2 Ha.