

Training on
“Bioprospecting and Biopiracy”
Under
“Forestry Training and Capacity building” for Personnel of other services
5-7 December, 2018 at IFGTB, Coimbatore

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has organised a three days training on “**Bioprospecting and Biopiracy**” under Forestry Training and Capacity building for Personnel of other services sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India during 5th to 7th December, 2018. About 30 participants from various Government Departments viz., Revenue, Academic, Police, Bank, Fire service, Agriculture, Adidravidar & Tribal Welfare, Public Works, Central Public Works, Animal Husbandry, Central Reserve Police, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Commercial Tax, Taluk Office, Rural Development, Asst. Directorate of Seed Certification, Collector Office, and Railway Departments participated in the training. The prime objective of the training was to create awareness on biodiversity of our country to the personnel of other services and make them understand the importance of forest bio resources, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), bioprospecting, sustainable use, legal issues like Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) associated with the transport of the material, the scope, challenges and prospects of forest resources with reference to bioprospecting and biopiracy through well knowledged resources.

The programme opened with an Ice-breaking session/opening ceremony on 5th December, 2018 which includes a welcome addresses by Smt. R. Sumathi. Assistant Chief Technical Officer, a brief introduction about the training by Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist E & Training Co-ordinator. The inaugural address of the training was delivered by **Dr. S. Murugesan**, Group Co-ordinator Research & Scientist- G, IFGTB, Coimbatore in which he stated that happiness depends on happiness of our surroundings. India is a diverse country not only cultural and social but also diverse in biodiversity, and the bioresources conservation is essential for the development of our country. He also stressed that the bioresources are being affected due to urbanisation. He also added that soil and bioprospecting are interconnected, since soil is one of the living ecosystems, where the microorganisms in it play a vital role in nutrient recycling and other ecosystem services.

The technical session was made into three sessions which included the presentations made by resource persons from various organisation and the research experts of IFGTB on various topics like “About IFGTB- Institute presentation” by Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist-G & Group Coordinator Research; “Climate Change and Biodiversity” by **Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director**; “Herbals for Head to Toe: Bioprospecting Values” by Dr. R. Arivukkarasu , Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, KMCH College of Pharmacy, Coimbatore; “Biopiracy, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), ABS and Patent” by Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-F; “Bioprospecting and Siddha” by Dr. V. Azhagarasi, MD, Professor, RVS Siddha

Medical College, Sulur, Coimbatore; “Biodiversity Act 2002” Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E; “Bioprospecting and Biotechnology” by Dr. Rekha Warriar, Scientist -E; “Illegal Trading of Wildlife/Forest Produce in India and Legal Instrument in place” by Shri. P. Kathirvel, IFS Assistant Silva; “Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) and Bioprospecting” by Dr. D. Thangamani, Scientist-C; “Microbial Prospecting” by Dr. V. Mohan, Scientist-G and “Bioprospecting of Forest Resources” by Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist-E. Participants were also exposed to various laboratories, nurseries and Gass Forest Museum of the institute.

Participants were also taken to field trip to Baralikadu, a forest fringe village in Western Ghats, and an ecotourism park on 6th December, 2018 where they were exposed to forest areas and tribal hamlets. Participants interacted with tribal community and country doctors with respect to traditional knowledge on use of medicinal plants locally available to cure various ailments. They also had discussion with forest department officials on the availability of bioresources and their management strategy.

Recommendations were drawn during panel discussion and most of the participants opined that the training duration may be extended to five days and such trainings may also be extended to maximum number of such officials in their departments, school and college students. The Group Co-ordinator Research, Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist G, distributed the certificates to participants. The three days training concluded with formal vote of thanks.



