



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

Training on Quality Planting Material Production in Nursery (QPM) for Forest Range Officers, Foresters, and Forest Guards of Madurai circle, Tamil Nadu Forest Department was organized by ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore as a part of the UK-Darwin Initiative. The event took place on March 26, 2024, at the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai. Thirty-four forest officials from various regions of Madurai participated in this enlightening QPM training. Shri. A. Mayavel, Scientist and training in-charge at ICFRE-IFGTB, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests and participants, underscoring the paramount importance of the training program. He outlined the objectives of the Quality Planting Material (QPM) Production in Nursery, providing a comprehensive overview that set the stage for the forthcoming sessions.

Dr. L. Nirmala, Professor and Programme Coordinator at ICAR-KVK, delivered the Presidential Address during the she expressed the significance of palm trees. She underscored their multifaceted importance, particularly in regions like Madurai, known for its bamboo products. Dr. Nirmala emphasized the pivotal role of agroforestry in enhancing forest cover, drawing attention to its crucial contribution to sustainable land use practices. She highlighted a concerning statistic: India imports 90% of its wood from foreign countries. To address this dependency and promote self-sufficiency, Dr. Nirmala advocated for the cultivation of trees using high-quality QPM products. Her address resonated with the broader theme of the training, highlighting the imperative to adopt sustainable practices and reduce reliance on imported resources.

Ms. R. Padmawathe, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Southern Circle, TNFD, Madurai inaugurated the training program. During her inaugural address, Ms. R. Padmawathe emphasized the importance of Quality Planting Material (QPM). She elaborated on how the production of plastic chairs contributes to environmental pollution and proposed the use of wooden chairs as an eco-friendly alternative. Ms. Padmawathe urged TNFD staff to apply the knowledge gained from the training in nursery practices, emphasizing the importance of practical implementation. She expressed gratitude to ICFRE-IFGTB for organizing such an invaluable training session for TNFD staff, acknowledging its significant contribution to their professional development and environmental stewardship.

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** - Mr Suresh Kumar
4. **Vegetative propagation** - Mr R. Velumani
5. **Role of bio-fertilizers in production of quality planting stock** - Dr. S. Vigneswaran
6. **Nursery pest and disease control**- Mr C. Rajesh
7. **Demonstration on seed testing and vegetative propagation** – Dr M. Ananthan, Professor & Head, AC & RI, Madurai and Dr P. Arul Arasu, Associate Professor/SMS (Horticulture)

The experts from ICFRE-IFGTB shared their wealth of knowledge and expertise generously during the training session, providing valuable insights into the current status and essential requirements of Quality Planting Material (QPM). Alongside informative presentations, the participants benefited from hands-on training sessions covering a wide array of topics, including seed testing, germination, and vegetative propagation techniques. Additionally, resource persons from TNAU enriched the program by sharing their expertise in seed testing and vegetative production specific to horticultural crops.

These interactive sessions allowed department staff to actively engage and gain practical experience in crucial aspects of QPM production. Through direct participation, attendees not

only deepened their understanding but also acquired valuable skills that they could immediately apply in their work. This practical, hands-on approach significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the training, empowering participants with the necessary tools to excel in their roles within the forestry and horticulture sectors.

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.

Dr. M. Ananthan, Professor & Head of AC & RI, Madurai, lauded the forest officials for their active engagement and pledged to incorporate such training sessions as a regular feature. In recognition of their participation, certificates were presented to the trainees by Dr. M. Ananthan and Shri A. Mayavel, Scientist at ICFRE-IFGTB. Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer at ICFRE-IFGTB, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing profound gratitude to the UK-Darwin Initiative for their generous financial support.

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. Mayavel, Scientist and training in-charge, ICFRE-IFGTB extended a warm welcome to the guests and attendees



Special address by Dr. L. Nirmala, Professor and Programme Coordinator at ICAR-KVK Madurai



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



Presentation Vegetative propagation - Mr R. Velumani



Presentation on Nursery pest and disease control- Mr. C. Rajesh



Hands-on training on Vegetative Propagation



Honored Ms. R. Padmawathe, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Southern Circle, Madurai



Dr M. Ananthan, Professor & Head, AC & RI, Madurai, awarded the Certificates trainees