

Launching of IFGTB-TNFD-CSIRO Collaborative Project on Expanding Carbon Sinks in Semi-arid Regions of Tamil Nadu

A new collaborative project on Expanding carbon sinks through sustainable tree biomass energy production in semi-arid areas of Tamil Nadu, India has been initiated in IFGTB with the partnership of Tamil Nadu Forest Department and CSIRO, Australia. The project is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) for a period of two years with a budget of A\$ 52,000. A project launch meeting was held in IFGTB on 29.10.2012 followed by field trip to semi-arid areas in Madurai, Sivaganga and Karur Districts in Tamil Nadu. The meeting and field trip was attended by Mr Khongsak Pinyopusarerk, Mr Aljoy Abarquez and Mr David Bush from CSIRO, Australia and Mr T.S. Srinivasamurthi, Chief Conservator of Forests (Forestry Extension), Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Dr N. Krishna Kumar, Director, IFGTB.

The collaborative project involving Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore and CSIRO Australia aims at pooling knowledge and expertise on raising successful tree planting in semi-arid regions of Tamil Nadu for biomass energy production. Tree cultivation in private lands is at present generally confined to areas where water is available at least for protective irrigation during the first few years after planting. But the vast areas of uncultivated / fallow lands in semi-arid regions need different approaches, choice of species and silvicultural inputs to raise tree crops. Australia with extensive land area falling under the semi-arid category has much experience in taking tree cultivation in such areas. IFGTB has extensive germplasm collections of Acacia, Ailanthus Casurina, Eucalyptus, Melia and Teak which can be tested in these regions and TNFD Forestry Extension Wing is closely working with farmers to promote tree cultivation. Partnership between these organizations through the present project will help in developing new strategies to expand tree cultivation in Tamil Nadu especially in areas where water is limiting factor. Further the project will provide opportunities for Officers and field staff of Tamil Nadu Forest Department to get trained in dry land tree farming by Scientists from CSIRO Australia and IFGTB.

Project Launching Meeting at IFGTB, Coimbatore



Interactive Meeting with Farmers of Semi-arid Regions (Arasanur, Madurai Dist, TN)

