



ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre, Agartala, Tripura (A Unit of ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam)

Training on “Cultivation and management of Agar (*Aquilaria malaccensis*)”

ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Centre, Agartala conducted a training programme on “Cultivation and management of Agar (*Aquilaria malaccensis*)” for farmers and youths from various parts of Tripura during 11th - 12th March, 2024 as a CAMPA- Extension activity. About 20 numbers of trainees participated in the training programme. The trainees were taught about Agar nursery establishment, management and Agar induction techniques. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat inaugurated the training programme on the 11th March, 2024 through video conferencing in the presence of Sh. R.K. Kalita, Head of Office, ICFRE-LEC, Agartala, Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E, RFRI, Jorhat, Sh. Ajoy Debbarma, Scientist-B and Sh. Niren Das, ACTO, ICFRE-LEC, Agartala. Dr. Nitin Kulkarni in his inaugural speech highlighted the need to take up sustainable Agar cultivation & production in view of the exploitation due to its increasing demand and also encouraged the trainee farmers and youths to actively learn the traits for this potentially rewarding farming option. Sh. R.K. Kalita, in his opening remarks welcomed all the trainees to take active part in the training programme. Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, delivered a technical lecture on “Overview of *Aquilaria malaccensis*” and highlighted various aspects of agar cultivation ranging from nursery development, on-farm management practices, artificial induction and economy of Agar cultivation and production. Dr. R.K. Borah, Scientist-G, Group-Coordinator (Research), ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, delivered a technical lecture on “Artificial induction of *Aquilaria malaccensis* using fungal techniques” and highlighted the methods involved in inoculating Agar trees using fungal consortium developed by ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat, Assam. He also shared detailed findings on Agar induction, its trade in NE, India and around various parts of the world. Dr. Mukthadhar Reang, Lecturer, Department of Botany, Tripura University presented a lecture on “Lifecycle of *Aquilaria malaccensis*” and threw light on its phenology, seed setting and its ecological distribution in Tripura. Sh. Prasenjit Choudhury, Research Officer, NTFP Center of Excellence (NCE), Tripura Forest Department presented various initiatives and efforts of the Forest Department and NCE Tripura for the promotion of Agar in the state. He also practically demonstrated various artificial induction techniques of Agar being taken up in Tripura by the Forest Department. Sh. Ajoy Debbarma, Scientist-B, ICFRE Agartala, delivered a lecture on “Natural infection of *Aquilaria malaccensis*: A case study from Tripura” and threw light on the recent natural infection of *Aquilaria malaccensis* in Teliamura Forest Division of Tripura and also highlighted the past natural distribution of Agar in Tripura and its adoption by growers in the state. The trainees also visited Agar nursery of the State Forest Department, Hatipara, Agartala, Tripura. The two days’ training programme concluded on the 12th March, 2024.

Date: 12th March, 2024

Place: ICFRE-LEC, Agartala

GLIMPSES





