**Progress in Eucalyptus Gall Wasp Management**

Several species of Eucalyptus are planted for production of pulp to meet the increasing demand from paper and related industries. India has 39,42,600 ha area under eucalypts cultivation with an average yield of 70-100 mt/ha during a 5 year rotation which fetches about Rupees one lakh and more per ha for farmers involved in eucalypts cultivation. Outbreak of an invasive gall inducing insect, *Leptocybe invasa*, on eucalypts plantations and nurseries in several eucalyptus growing tracts in India was observed since 2007. This Institute identified and made the first reporting about the incidence of this invasive species to alert the stake holders and public. IFGTB has also taken up various measures to manage the gall wasp problem. Natural enemies of *L. invasa* were imported from Israel through the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects- (NBAII), Bangalore and released. NBAII has supplied the natural enemies to eucalyptus growers throughout India for gall wasp management. Regular assessment of gall population by IFGTB since its release tends to show significant reduction in gall infestation in many localities in Karnataka and Tamilnadu. Studies in collaboration with NBAII for identification of attractants or deterrents of gall wasp in its management are being explored. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, *Director* along with Dr. Prasanth Jacob, Principal Investigator and Dr. Rekha Warrier *Scientist* from IFGTB visited NBAII on 30 January 2013 to review the collaborative ICFRE funded project on "Influence of Eucalyptus species on the natural enemies incidence on the gall wasp *Leptocybe invasa*". Under this project, IFGTB is looking in to the biology, host preference and behavioural aspects and NBAII on the biochemical basis of host preference of gall wasp. The review analysed the work carried out in the project by both partners and found it showing good leads. There is a need to continue the study to achieve the objectives which will be of great help in controlling the gall wasp problem in the country.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar, *Director*, IFGTB reviewing the progress of collaborative Biological control project with the Principal Scientist Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam who is the Co Principal Investigator of the Project at NBAII, Bangalore,

Dr. Rekha Warrier, Dr. Prasanth Jacob and Dr. Krishnakumar *Director*, IFGTB discussing the project details with Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam and visiting labs.