

Stakeholders Meet with the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department

An interactive meeting of IFGTB with the Kerala State Department of Forests and Wildlife was held on 17 August 2016 at the Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacadu, Trivandrum at 12.30 pm to discuss about the possible areas of collaborative research.

Dr. B S Corrie, PCCF & Head of Forest Force, Kerala State Forest Department welcomed the gathering. Shri R S Prashanth, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore in his introductory remarks briefly highlighted the activities of IFGTB including release of clones. He also elaborated on the biopesticides and biofertilizers developed and released by the Institute. He sought the co-operation of PCCF Kerala to popularise the products among farmers and the Forest Department. Director, IFGTB also mentioned about the various training programmes arranged by the Institute for forest staff and farmers. Dr. Kannan Warriar, Scientist E and Nodal Officer (Kerala), IFGTB gave a detailed presentation about the Institute particularly with reference to Action Taken for the issues deliberated during the interactive workshop held in 2012. Followed by this, Director, IFGTB highlighted the specific areas for future research and collaboration like multi location trials with indigenous species, assembling of forest genetic resources for Kerala State through land allotted by SFD, seed centre establishment, formulation of forest health monitoring system, data base preparation of economically important tree species through GIS, support for conservation forestry and reaching out through Farmer's Mela.

Shri. B S Corrie, PCCF suggested that IFGTB can utilise facilities with KFD to support their activities in CMAs and areas available with KFD for grounding clonal material of teak from IFGTB. PCCF also requested Director IFGTB to come up with a package/proposal involving training to department staff on various aspects like clonal multiplication, establishment and maintenance while establishing trials so that best products and processes can be implemented in the field. Funds could be chipped in from different sources for the programme. A Hand Book on various technologies, processes and products, Pest calendar standardised by IFGTB could be supplied for the field staff of KFD. All efforts to be channelled to maintain the quality of seed materials and the staff should be equipped with detailed methodology for the same. He also sought support of IFGTB in setting up of permanent preservation plots for multi species monitoring, climate change research, salvaging of non productive plantations, Timber classification, simplified NTFP management, ecosystem health monitoring and managing the forests for ecosystem services and resources on monitoring butterfly population in relation to time span. PCCF extended all support and facilities of SFD, Kerala to undertake the activities. He added that we have to work together to grow together. The meeting ended by 3.30 pm.

