

A REPORT ON THE VISIT OF OFFICERS FROM INTERNATIONAL PAPER TO IFGTB, COIMBATORE

Date of visit: 31 October 2011

Composition of Team:

1. Dr. James L. Rakestraw, Manager, Forest Research and Technology, International Paper USA.
2. Mr. Marc Davison, Manager, Global Fiber Projects, International Paper USA.
3. Mr. Luís Fernando Silva, General Manager, International Paper Brazil.
4. Mr. J.K. Jain, Chief Forest Officer, International Paper India, Hyderabad.



Background Information

IFGTB has been working with The Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills Limited (APPM), Rajahmundry, AP to strengthen their tree improvement activities in particular producing genetically improved planting stock of Casuarina. The Institute has recently completed a technical consultancy for APPM on establishing and managing seed orchards of Casuarina in Andhra Pradesh. The International Paper (IP), a multinational Company with paper industries in several countries has recently taken over APPM. Mr J.K. Jain who coordinated collaboration between APPM and IFGTB has joined IP and proposed a visit by a team of himself and three other officials to IFGTB to discuss areas of further collaboration. This visit on 31.10.2011 has been informed to ICFRE.

Details of Discussion held with the IP Team

A meeting was held with the visiting team chaired by Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, Director and attended by Group Coordinator (Research), Heads of Departments and Scientists involved in Eucalyptus and Casuarina genetic improvement. During the meeting Dr Jim Rakestraw and Mr Luís Fernando Silva made presentations on tree improvement activities of IP in Southern USA and Brazil respectively. They highlighted the profile of IP in their presentations.

IP has operations in 20 countries in Africa, America (North and South), Asia and Europe with over 56,000 employees. The Company uses more than 50 million tones of wood annually and produces 6.1 million tones of paper. The net sales of the Company during 2010 was USD 25.2 billion. The main tree crop for paper in Southern US is pines (longleaf and loblolly pines) whereas Eucalypts are the main crop in Brazil. Various stages of tree improvement of these two groups of trees were covered in the presentations of the visitors and there was a well informed discussion between IFGTB Scientists and IP team. Dr B. Gurudev Singh, Scientist F and Head, Dr A. Nicodemus, Scientist E, and Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist E, Genetics and Tree Breeding Division made presentations on the ongoing research in IFGTB, Casuarina and Eucalyptus improvement works respectively. After discussing the strengths of each organization

and the priorities for future tree improvement work on pulpwood species in India, the following broad areas were identified for future collaboration between IFGTB and International Paper.

1. Augmenting genetic base of major pulpwood species through infusions from natural and planted sources. In particular expanding genetic base of *Leucaena* species recently taken up by IFGTB for genetic improvement.
2. Including new breeding objectives like pulp produced per unit area and time
3. Coordinated evaluation trials of elite germplasm released by IFGTB in target locations.
4. Evolving site- and clone-specific silvicultural practices especially for high density plantations of *Casuarina*.
5. Using GIS technology estimating planting area and growing stock.

These broad areas will be further discussed among Director, Group Coordinator (Research) and Scientists of IFGTB and communicated to ICFRE before taking up with IP to develop specific collaborative research proposals.