

Proceedings of the sixth monthly seminar for research scholars

The sixth monthly seminar for research scholars was held on 18.03.2019 at 4.30 PM at IFGTB. The meeting was presided over by the Group Co-ordinator Research, IFGTB, Dr. S. Murugesan. Mrs. A.R. Sakthi, Mr. Judin Jose and Mr. A. Vinothkumar were the speakers of the day.

Mrs. A.R. Sakthi, JRF, Plant Biotechnology Division, spoke on the need for understanding genetic structure of natural forest populations which would support conservation and sustainable management of its genetic resources. Explaining her research, she detailed on how different natural populations were selected across three states of the country for development of a genome map, from which primers were synthesized and validated in identified individuals. The information generated helped to group populations together, which, in the long run, would enable the forest departments to delineate teak conservation areas.

Mr. Judin Jose, JRF, Plant Biotechnology Division, explained about the gap in demand and supply of medicinal plants, and their unauthorised removal from the forests to meet the demands of industries. He explained how a seed production system could support the pharmaceutical industries, without their need to go into forests for raw materials, thereby enabling protection of the natural stock. The project is aimed at *ex-situ* assemblage of important medicinal trees such as five Dasamoola tree species, two Triphala species along with *Saraca asoca*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Strychnos nux-vomica*, *S. potatorum* and *Santalum album* to cater to the needs of the concerned industries. He informed on the likely collaboration with different industries for hosting these medicinal gardens and has obtained concurrence from three of them.



Dr. A. Shakthi delivering her talk



Mr. Judin Jose explains his work on medicinal trees

Mr. A. Vinothkumar, JRF, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division presented his work on development of descriptors for teak. He detailed on the morphological features used for taxonomic identification of teak, followed by the descriptors identified to characterise a clone. The programme involved a field study of 39 morphological characters in 150 clones from various accessions of both clonal and seedling origin. He summarized that plantations raised by forest department did not vary much while, large variation was observed between trees of seedling origin in farmers' plantations.



Mr. Vinoth Kumar replies to queries on descriptors

Mr. Rajesh Gopalan explaining IFD activities

Numerous thought provoking questions were raised on different aspects presented in the seminar. The scholars participated actively in the discussions. Following the meeting, Mr. Rajesh Gopalan, Head, Extension elaborated on the various programmes planned for the International Day of Forests (IDF) and sought the active participation of the research scholars.



Dr. S. Murugesan interacting with the students

Mrs. Divya, G., JRF, Bioprospecting Division, Mr. Amaldas, P., SRF, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division and Mr. G. Gopal, JRF, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division were identified as the speakers for the next meet.