

# Report on Sandalwood – Seed Handling, Nursery and Plantation Technology

(February 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017)

Tree Improvement and Genetics Division  
Institute of Wood Science and Technology



Group Photograph of Participants at the Sandalwood Training Workshop held at IWST from February 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Short term training on sandalwood was conducted from February 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 by Tree Improvement and Genetics Division, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore. The training aimed at encompassing the different aspects of growing sandalwood, from its seed to the final marketing of sandalwood.



Shri Mohan Karnat, IFS and Group Co-ordinator Research, IWST delivering the inaugural address

The training programme was attended by 45 participants, primarily from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The inaugural session of the training was initiated with a welcome address by Dr. Syam Viswanath, Scientist F and Course Director at Tree Improvement and Genetics (TIG) Division. This was followed by participants introducing themselves simultaneously giving their expectations

from the training. Dr. Geeta Joshi, Scientist F and Head, TIG Division, addressed the gathering conveying to the participants that all their expectations would be addressed through during the five day training duration. Shri Mohan Karnat, IFS and Group Co-ordinator Research at IWST delivered the inaugural address. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Tresa Hamalton, Scientist C, TIG Division.

After the conclusion of the inaugural session, the participants were given a brief overview of how the five day training program would be conducted along with a brief introduction to sandalwood by Dr. Syam Viswanath. This was followed by a talk on Sandalwood Seed technology, showing practically on observations of healthy and unhealthy seeds of sandalwood by Dr. Geeta Joshi. Understanding the technology behind tree improvement in sandalwood was further discussed by Dr. Arun Kumar, Scientist F, TIG Division in the latter part of the day. The final discussion on the first day of the training was on pest management in sandalwood, both at the nursery stage and in plantation by Dr. R Sundararaj, Scientist G and Head, FWP Division of IWST.

The second day (28/2/17) of the five day training started with understanding the sandalwood nursery technology. This was discussed in depth by Dr. Annapurna D, Woman Scientist – UGC, TIG Division. Dr. Syam Viswanath then went on to elaborate on agroforestry as an option in sandalwood cultivation along with the economics of sandal cultivation. The policies and schemes associated with sandalwood cultivations were discussed by Mr. M Srinivasa Rao, IFS, Conservator of Forests and Head PRM Division of IWST. Mr. V Soundara Rajan, Scientist C, IT Cell, IWST then discussed in detail on sandalwood and oil trade and management. In the evening all the participants were taken for a short tour of IWST including the laboratories, nursery and the museum by Mr. Sandeep Chakraborty, RA-II, TIG Division.

The third day of the training (1/3/17) progressed to general guidelines in plantation management of sandalwood by Dr. Ashutosh Srivastava, Scientist E, TIG Division. This was followed by a talk cum discussion on success stories of sandalwood plantations both in India and abroad by Mr. H S Ananthapadmanabha, Retired Scientist E, IWST. The entire post lunch session on the third day was dedicated to giving the participants hands-on training on sandalwood nursery practices at IWST nursery.



Dr. Syam Viswanath, Scientist F and Course Director addressing the trainees during the field visit

The fourth day of the sandalwood training was entirely dedicated to field visit wherein farmers were first taken to sandal plantations. This was followed by a visit to Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) wherein they showed the various methods sandal is used by KSDL.

On the last day of the training, Mr. Ramesh, a farmer who is cultivating sandalwood came to share his experience and viewpoint of growing sandalwood. This was followed by a talk with Dr. Venkatesh Gowda, Rtd. Deputy General Manager at KSDL on different sandalwood products and its marketing. Mr. B S Chandrashekar, Scientist D, CFP Division of IWST had a discussion with the participants on sandalwood utilization and assessment of oil content. Dr. A Muthukumar, Scientist D, FWP Division, IWST gave information on management of diseases in sandalwood nursery and plantations. Post lunch session was dedicated to interaction of participants with all the experts and gathering the feedback of participants with respect to the usefulness of the training

program. The five day training on sandalwood concluded with a valedictory function and distribution of certificates to the trainees.



Feed back of participants during Valedictory function of the five day training on sandalwood held at IWST on 3/3/2017