



A REPORT OF TRAINING ON “QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT TREE SPECIES” ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT VAN VIGYAN KENDRA-BHASMA, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA.

ICFRE–Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Hyderabad, under the Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) programme, organized a one-day training on “*Quality Planting Material Production of Commercially Important Tree Species*” on 18th September 2025 at Van Vigyan Kendra, Bhasma, Sambalpur, Odisha, for field staff of the Odisha State Forest Department.

The training programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. S. Pattanaik, Scientist-G & GCR, ICFRE–IFB, Hyderabad, who greeted the participants, highlighted the objectives of the VVK programme, and outlined the schedule of the day’s sessions. Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, CF State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar, in his opening remarks, emphasized the importance of improving the quality of planting material and expressing confidence that the training would benefit the Odisha Forest Department in developing high-quality nursery stock. Shri. Sangram Keshari, IFS, Director, Forest Academy, Angul also briefed on the importance of quality planting materials in plantation programmes for afforestation activities of the Odisha Forest department. The inaugural address was delivered by Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE–Institute of Forest Biodiversity, who welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to the Odisha State Forest Department for their collaboration and support in organizing the programme.

Shri E Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director and Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, CF State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the newly established VVK centre infrastructure facilities (shade net house, polyhouse, office room and boards etc) at Bhasma Research Garden and High-Tech Nursery, Sambalpur Research Range, Odisha.

The technical sessions began with a presentation by Dr. Shivaprasad, Scientist-B, ICFRE–IFB, Hyderabad, on “*Quality Planting Material (QPM) and Its Importance.*” He discussed genetically superior planting material, integrated disease and nutrient management (IDM and INM), genetic diversity, and the role of healthy, uniform, and disease-free stock in nursery success. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, during which participants showed keen interest in the practical aspects of QPM production.

The second session was delivered by Dr. S. Pattanaik, Scientist-G & GCR, ICFRE–IFB, Hyderabad, on “*Genetic Considerations for Quality Planting Material Production in Forest Nurseries.*” He elaborated on topics such as genetic variation, causes of low productivity in natural and planted forests, tree improvement techniques, plus-tree selection methods, progeny and clonal testing, and commercial deployment strategies. He also discussed the raising of nurseries for *Sandalwood*, *Casuarina spp.*, and *Eucalyptus spp.*, along with registration of new varieties. The session concluded with an interactive

discussion where Dr. Pattanaik addressed participants' queries on genetic factors influencing nursery stock quality.

The third session was delivered by Dr. Gobinda Chandra Acharya, Principal Scientist & Head, CHES, Bhubaneswar, on "*Propagation Techniques, Potting Media and Nutrient Management in QPM Production.*" His lecture covered nursery requirements, vegetative propagation methods (grafting and layering), seed collection and processing, nursery media preparation, irrigation, nutrient, and pest management. He engaged with participants through an interactive discussion, providing clarifications on nursery management and propagation techniques.

The last lecture was presented by Dr. Kavi Siddharthan, Scientist-C, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad, on "*Pest and Disease Management in Forest Nurseries.*" He explained key concepts such as plant disease identification, the disease triangle, pathogen isolation and detection, Koch's postulates, and management of root, collar, and foliar diseases. Participants actively participated, asking questions about diagnosing and managing nursery diseases in tree species.

Throughout the programme, participants were highly attentive and interactive, showing great enthusiasm to learn about topics such as propagation techniques, pest and disease management, and genetic considerations in nursery production. During the feedback session, they appreciated the relevance of the training and requested similar capacity-building programmes at regular intervals.

The training was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D & Head, Extension, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad, followed by the distribution of certificates to all participants for the successful completion of the training. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Suraj, Scientist-B (Nodal Officer, VVK Odisha) and Ms. Kashish Bahera, ACF, (Nodal Officer, VVK Odisha), supported by the extension team of ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad and staff of Bhasma research station, Odisha

Glimpses of the Seminar



Distribution of kits to the participants



Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar, delivered the opening remarks



The inaugural address delivered by
Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director,
ICFRE–Institute of Forest Biodiversity



Shri Sangram Keshari, IFS, Director,
Forest Academy, Angul



Welcome address by Dr. S. Pattanaik,
Scientist-G & GCR, ICFRE–IFB, Hyderabad



Remarks by Ms. Kashish Behera, OFS,
ACF, Nodal officer VVK-Odisha



Remarks by Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D,
Head Extension, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad



Group photo



Inauguration of shade net house



Visit to shade net and poly house



Inauguration of poly house



Technical session



Presentation by Dr. Shivaprasad,
Scientist-B, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad



Presentation by Dr. Gobinda Chandra
Acharya, Principal Scientist & Head, CHES,
Bhubaneswar



Presentation by Dr. Kavi Siddharthan,
Scientist-C, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad



Discussion with the participants



Distribution of certificates to the
participants



Dr. S Pattanaik interacting with the
participants