



VVK



ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY (IFB), HYDERABAD

A report of Training on “Sustainable harvesting of NTFPs & its value addition” on 19th September, 2025 at Van Vigyan Kendra-Bhasma, Sambalpur, Odisha.

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Hyderabad in co-ordination with Odisha Forest Department organized a training on “Sustainable harvesting of NTFPs & its value addition” under VVK-programme on 19th September, 2025 at Van Vigyan Kendra-Bhasma, Sambalpur, Odisha for various Self-help Groups in Odisha.

The Training program was initiated by Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D, Head Extension, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad who welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of VVK training program, and gave details of the training program. Opening remarks were given by Ms. Kashish Behera, OFS, ACF, Nodal officer VVK-Odisha. She explained the importance of sustainable harvesting of NTFPs for ecological and economic growth of Self-help groups and Odisha state. Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of non-timber forest products in improving the livelihood of the self-help groups and NTFPs such as honey, bamboo, resins, and medicinal herbs that provide income for forest-dependent communities, especially during lean agricultural seasons. Shri. Sangram Keshari, IFS, Director, Forest Academy, Angul also briefed about the importance of collection, processing, and marketing of NTFPs in creating jobs in rural economies, and empowering women and marginalized groups. In his inaugural address Shri E Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity welcomed the participants to the VVK training program and emphasized the importance of establishing VVK in Odisha for demonstrating research outcomes from lab to land.

The technical sessions started with the presentation of Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D, Head Extension, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad. In his lecture he talked about different kinds of NTFPs and their importance in food and medicine. He briefed about the AICRP projects executed by the institute like sustainable management of NTFPs through conservation and value addition (AICRP-29) and, Bioprospecting for industrial utilization of lesser-known forest plants (AICRP-16), He gave information on the cultivation, resource assessment, propagation, processing, post-harvesting techniques of important NTFP species. He also informed the value added products developed by the institute from the forest resources. He distributed samples of Entada keychain, and shoe polish prepared using Madhuca oil to the women of self-help groups. Later, Dr. Pankaj Singh interacted with the self-help groups and clarified their doubts regarding processing of NTFPs, value addition

of NTFPs, and showed value-added products prepared by the institute like shoe polish prepared using Madhuca oil etc.,

Participants were highly attentive throughout the training period and readily raised questions such as sal leaves moisture content, sal resin collection. They expressed desire for more hands-on training, and sought clarifications. Some of the topics kindled their interest and were curious to knowing about the value addition of NTFP products, processing and different equipment used in processing, etc. During the feedback session the participants expressed the need of such trainings in future on regular basis. They were of the opinion that such specific trainings would help in preparation of good value-added products. Certificates for the successful completion of training were distributed to all participants. The one-day training was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. S. Pattanaik, Scientist-G, Group Co-ordinator (Research), ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad. Program was co-ordinated by ICFRE-IFB extension team and Odisha State Forest Department.

Glimpses of the Seminar



Distribution of KITs to the participants



Inauguration of the training program by Dignitaries



Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, CF State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar,



Shri E Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad



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



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



Presentation of Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D, Head Extension, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad



Interaction with the women self-help groups



Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, interacting with the women from self-help groups



Discussion and doubts clarification session



Women from self-help groups examining the Glory Lilly flower



Women from self-help groups examining the shoe polish made from Madhuca oil



Showcasing the key chains made from Entada seeds



Showcasing the shoe polish made from Madhuca oil



Distribution of certificates to participants from self-help groups



Group photo

