

TREE GROWERS MELA

One of the most important mandate of ICFRE is extension of research findings from lab to land so that the benefit of research efforts and can be translated into gain society in real time. IFGTB, Coimbatore has pioneered in this extension strategy by organizing Tree Growers Mela (TGM) in several strategic places in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. TGM is organized to spread awareness on tree cultivation techniques using improved planting materials, including clones released by IFGTB. Tree Growers Mela serve as an integrating platform of tree growers, forest scientists, wood based industries, QPM producers and State Forest Departments. TGM provides tree cultivation technologies and market inputs to the tree growers, for enhancement of productivity and farm income.

ICFRE has been sanctioned a dedicated scheme entitled ***“Strengthening Forestry Research for Ecological Sustainability and Productivity Enhancement”*** from Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2018 (CAMPA) with a total budget outlay of 313.67 Crores.

Below table provides information on TGMs conducted by IFGTB and number of farmers participated.

YEAR	PLACE	PARTICIPATION
2010	Coimbatore	690
2011	Coimbatore	580
2012	Coimbatore	720
2013	Coimbatore	1,302
2016	Trichy	291
2017	Dindivanam	752
	Killikulam	900
2018	Dharmapuri	700

2019	Tiruvannamalai	1,312
2019	Jayangondam	450
2020	Coimbatore	1000
2021	Gobichettipalayam	223
Total		8,920

Industrial Tree Growers Mela, Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu - 2019

- ❖ IFGTB organized Industrial Tree Growers Mela on 22nd October, 2019 at C.R. Mahal, Jayankondam, Ariyalur District under the theme “**Clonal Farm Forestry for Increased Productivity**”, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur. Tree Growers’ Mela served as an integration platform for Scientists, research institutions, nursery growers, wood based industry and government agencies to equip the tree growers with the information on almost all aspects of planting of trees on farm lands. Industrial partner’s viz., Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), Sharon Plywood Limited, Seshasayee Paper Board, KVK Ariyalur and IFGTB contributed their technical inputs on wood requirement, market information and demand for improved planting material of the commonly planted tree species. TNPL published a media advertisement in local media for giving wide publicity before the event. Overwhelmingly, about 450 tree growers/farmers from Jayankondam, Ariyalur and nearby districts of Thanjavur, Cuddalore of Tamil Nadu participated in the mela.



Tree Growers Mela, 2020

IFGTB organized two days Tree Growers' Mela 2020 at Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 10.03.2020 & 11.03.2020 with support from CAMPA for the action plan 2019-2020 under the component "Operationlization of Forestry Extension Strategy and Action Plan of ICFRE".

The mela was organized in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Limited (TNPL), KVKs & NGOs. The themes and identified target groups for the two days mela is as below;

Date	Theme	Target Group
10.03.20	Clonal Farm Forestry for Increased Productivity	Registered farmers from wood based industries
11.03.20	Smart Tree Cultivation for Increasing farm income and Green cover	Registered farmers of TCPL Scheme of TNFD & members of Tree Growers Associations of Coimbatore, Erode, Salem & Tirupur District

More than 1000 tree growers, front line staff of state forest department of Tamil Nadu, KVKs, representatives of wood based industries, NGOs and members of Tree Growers Associations participated in the programme. The tree growers of 21 district of Tamil Nadu, Trissur and Palakkad districts of Kerala and Union territory of Puducherry participated in the two days mela. A team of scientists of IFGTB and invited forest based industries presented various concepts of plantation technology, availability of improved clones, pest and disease management and marketability of major identified species through interactive seminars & exhibition and the tree growers also got opportunity to share their experiences in tree cultivation.





TREE GROWERS MELA, 2021

IFGTB organized Tree Growers Mela on 17th September, 2021 at Karthikeyan Mahal, Gobichettipalayam, Erode district under the theme **“High Yielding Tree Varieties for Agroforestry systems”**, in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District. This served as an integration platform for Scientists, nursery growers, wood based industry and government agencies to equip the tree growers with the information on almost all aspects of planting of trees on farm lands. Industrial partner Seshasayee Paper Board, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Erode Circle, ICAR-KVK, MYRADA Gobichettupalayam and IFGTB contributed their technical inputs on wood requirement, market information and demand for improved planting material of the commonly planted tree species. Overwhelmingly, 223 tree growers/farmers and SHG members from Erode district of Tamil Nadu participated in the mela.

The theme for the Technical session - I of the mela was **“High yielding tree varieties for Agro forestry systems - Erode District”**. Concepts on plantation technology, package of practices, and availability of improved clones for major identified species viz., Teak, Melia, Windbreak clones, Cadamba and Calophyllum was covered in this session. The Technical session - II dealt on **“Timber transit rules and procedures followed in Tamil Nadu”**. The resource persons and panel members included Industry partners and officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department; and they shared

their knowledge and experience in detail and their presentation triggered the awareness regarding the tree cultivation and very importantly on necessity for adhering to procedural formalities in timber transit.

An exclusive Exhibition was arranged for the farmers by IFGTB, , Agri Entrepreneur Service Centre (AESC) ICAR KVK MYRADA, bankers, Self Help group and Seshasayee Paper Board Ltd to display various technologies in clonal forestry, package of practices recommended for major tree crops, pests and disease management in nursery and plantations. The industrial partners and KVK exhibited various technologies in tree cultivation and wood procurement in the exhibition. The participants and farmers were given free copies of the book “*Mara Sagupadi, Tree Borne Oil Seeds, Biofertilisers and Biomanuures and Melia*” and brochures on Seed pest and management and Windbreak clones, published by IFGTB, Coimbatore. 223 participants attended the mela including tree growers, civil society members, field officials of TNFD, KVKs, bankers and wood based industries.



