

4th February, 2015: Educational Tour to Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu by ENVIS Team:

Ms. Suma TS, Senior Program Office, ENVIS Co-ordinator, Ms. Soumyashree N., Research Fellow and Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi K., Research Fellow of FRLHT's ENVIS Centre on Medicinal Plants visited various departments of IFGTB and got an overview of the research activities of the Centre.

- Dr. Kannan C.S. Warriar, Scientist E, Genetics & Tree Breeding Division, ENVIS Co-ordinator (<http://envisindia.in/ifgtb>) introduced IFGTB and spoke about successful production of various elite tree varieties of *Eucalyptus* sp., *Casuarina* sp. and *Leucaena* sp. by IFGTB, to enhance the pulp production, as an effective tool in conservation of forest produce with increased cultivation of these easy growing clones and of high quality timber.
- Dr. S.P. Subbramani, Research officer, Herbarium-in-charge and Research Officer, briefed about the Fischer Herbaria collections housed in IFGTB and conducted the educational tour in the campus. This herbaria stores precious collections of eminent taxonomist: Dr. Fischer, Dr. TF Bourdillon, Dr. Fyson, Dr. AW Lushington, Dr. Barber and Dr. Lushington



Dr. Subramani SP, Research Officer and ENVIS Team members at IFGTB campus.

- Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist G, Head Bio-prospecting and Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist D, gave an overview on bio prospecting forest resources with special reference to the development of plant based bio pesticides, bio boosters, phyto products and endophytic secondary metabolites for forest insect control and bio boosters, phyto products biodiversity conservation.



Dr. Murugesan and team at Bio-prospecting division explained about the R & D products developed by the institute. Some of the important medicinal plants were screened for bio-pesticides and know-how developed. Example: Tree pal, a bio pesticide from seeds of *Hydnocarpus* species

- Dr. Mathish Nambiar-Veetil, Scientist E, in-charge of Genetic transformation and Functional Genetics Experimental Facility, explained genetic transformation and development of transgenic plants using biotechnology. Example: gall insect tolerant clones of *Eucalyptus* species thus ensuing good quality trunk for paper production



Dr. Mathish Nambiar-Veetil explaining about transgenic plants and its significance.

- Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist E, Head-Seed Technology gave an exposure to tree improvement of *Calophyllum inophyllum* for its conservation as a medicinal plants, Chemotyping of *Sapindus emarginatus*, A potential NTFP of Tamil Nadu for saponins.



Dr. AnandaLakshmi, Scientist from Seed Technology Division explaining about the process of identification of elite seeds of *Calophyllum innophyllum* based on kernel and oil content (Punnaga oil)

- Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-E, Division of Biodiversity explained about various training programs organized by the institute for participants various sectors of society in order to educate regarding floral identification to biodiversity conservational methodologies