TRAINING REPORT ON

Recent Trends in Tree Cultivation Techniques

to the officials & Farmers of Odisha State

Organized by

ICFRE -INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Expanding tree cover outside traditional forest reserves offers a powerful opportunity to build climate resilience, enhance ecological stability, and meet the growing demand for sustainable timber products. For a forest-rich and forward-looking state like Odisha, optimizing tree cultivation outside forests (TOF) is essential to meet state-specific agroforestry goals and boost rural livelihoods. While the farming community drives ground-level adoption, state forest officials provide the regulatory framework and institutional support. Accelerating these green initiatives effectively requires a shift toward advanced, scientifically validated silvicultural practices, high-yielding clones, and outreach focused landscape management.

To bridge this gap, an intensive **five-day training programme on 'Recent Trends in Tree Cultivation Techniques'** was conducted at the ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore in two batches during October 2026 for farmers and State Forest officials from Odisha. ICFRE-IFGTB's pioneering research in tree improvement, clonal forestry, and quality planting stock provided the ideal framework to equip participants with climate-resilient practices—ranging from advanced nursery management and optimum spacing to improved cultivation practices and agroforestry approaches that can support farm productivity and income generation. By fostering a direct convergence between Odisha's stakeholders and IFGTB's scientific expertise, this training ensured enhanced farm productivity, diversified rural income streams, and the robust propagation of high-value timber species tailored to Odisha's agro-climatic zones.

The training programme was sponsored by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP), Phase-II. The ICFRE – IFGTB, Coimbatore organized the training programme in two batches during October 2026, benefiting 51 Farmers and Officials of Odisha State.

The two batches of trainings were conducted during:

Date	No. of participants
05-09th October 2026	28
26-30th October 2026	23

Shri T. Rabi Kumar, IFS, Director, ICFRE–IFGTB, underscored the Institute's significant contributions in developing improved tree cultivation technologies and promoting scientific forestry practices. He highlighted the need for stronger inter-state cooperation and institutional linkages to promote tree-based farming and expand green cover across the country. He also emphasised that sharing research findings, innovative technologies and practical field experiences with farmers and officials would encourage the adoption of suitable tree species and improved cultivation methods, ultimately enhancing farm productivity, economic returns and environmental sustainability.

The Course Director, Dr. A. C. Surya Prabha, Scientist E & Head, Extension, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the training programme in enhancing their technical knowledge and practical understanding of scientific tree cultivation practices. She outlined the programme's structured approach, combining expert lectures, technical demonstrations and field exposure to facilitate knowledge transfer and experience sharing.

The 1st batch training programme was inaugurated on 05.10.2026 at ICFRE-IFGTB and Shri. A. Periasamy, IFS, CCF, Villupuram graced the occasion for the Inaugural session as Chief Guest.



Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Odisha State graced the occasion as Chief Guest on 26.10.2026 for the Second batch.



Technical Sessions

The theme and sessions of the training programme were carefully designed to equip the participants of the Odisha State Stakeholders with the latest tree improvement technologies and proven packages of practices for important tree species.

The titles covered in the training and resource persons are furnished as below.

- Casuarina-the Cash Crop by Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist G and Dr. A. Mayavel, Scientist E
- Bamboo: Wonder Grass for Rural Upliftment and Environmental Conservation by Shri. Maria Dominic Savio, Scientist E
- Agroforestry Models for increasing farm income by Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan, Scientist F
- Cultivation practices of Tamarind by Dr. A. Mayavel, Scientist E
- Tissue Culture in Agroforestry species: Challenges and Opportunities by Dr. Rekha R Warrier, Scientist G
- Eucalyptus cultivation in dry land for higher income by Dr. V. Sivakumar, Scientist G
- Windbreak Casuarina & Carbon Sequestration by Dr. C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist G

The participants visited the Vegetative Multiplication Garden (VMG), where they were introduced to vegetative propagation techniques using coppice shoots. The trainees were further demonstrated the advanced methodologies in the clonal propagation of Eucalyptus, Casuarina, and key indigenous tree species.

Additionally, the participants visited the Tamarind trial plots to gain insights into the specialized Sweet and Red Tamarind varieties developed by ICFRE-IFGTB.

Field Visit:

As part of the training programme, the participants were taken to the TNFD plantations of Mahogany and Melia in Coimbatore district to gain practical knowledge and first-hand exposure to the cultivation practices and management of these important tree species. The field visit also provided an opportunity to understand the silvicultural practices adopted by farmers, including planting methods, spacing, maintenance and overall plantation management under field conditions.




The trainees were taken to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore Orchards to gain practical exposure to various orchard management practices, with particular emphasis on different grafting techniques adopted for fruit tree propagation. They were familiarised with grafting methods, selection of rootstocks and planting techniques and maintenance practices.




An exclusive field visit was organized to Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur, along with visits to progressive farmers' fields (both Eucalyptus and Casuarina), to understand the impact of industrial agroforestry in enhancing farm income. During the visit, Odisha officials and participants were given practical insights into large-scale clonal production and nursery management practices.







The participants were taken to the Teak Canal Plantations in Thanjavur Forest Division, an important agroforestry initiative of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department that utilizes silt-rich canal banks for high-yield teak production. Subsequently, the trainees visited the Timber Treatment Plant and Wood Seasoning Unit of the Thanjavur Forest Division.




READING MATERIALS

The participants were given an elaborative reading content on the below topics

1. Casuarina, Melia and Eucalyptus.
2. A book on Casuarina - Cash crop (Authors Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist G & Dr. A. Mayavel, Scientist E) in Odia version was released as part of the program.



FEEDBACK SESSION & VALEDICTORY

During the feedback session, the trainees shared their experiences and expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct of the programme. The participation certificates were awarded to all trainees by the Director, ICFRE-IFGTB in recognition of their active involvement and successful completion of the training.

GLIMPSE OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME



BATCH 1



BATCH 2

	
Dr.A.Nicodemus, Scientist G & Dr.A.Mayavel, Scientist E on Casuarina Cash Crop	Dr.Sivakumar, Scientist G on Eucalyptus cultivation
	
Dr.Rekha Warrier Scientist G on Tissue culture in Agroforestry species	Shri Maria Dominic Savio, Scientist on Bamboo for rural uplifitment and environmental conservation

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Certificate distribution	