

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
26th FORESTRY SCIENTISTS' MEET CONDUCTED ON 26.4.2016**

The 26th Scientists' Meet on Forestry was held on 26th of May, 2016 at TNAU, Coimbatore under the chairmanship of the Vice-chancellor, TNAU. Director of Research highlighted the need for an action plan for the next three years from the scientists of forestry to address the issues of the farmers and other stakeholders. The highlights of the research achievements and action taken on the recommendations of the previous meet were presented by the Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam. At the end, the Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a vote of thanks.

1. Number of Projects

S. No	Department	Externally Funded	URP
1	Department of Agroforestry	7	0
2	Department of Tree Breeding	0	1
3	Department of Silviculture	4	1
4	Department of Forest Products and utilization	1	2
5	From other Stations	0	2
Total		12	6

1. Based on the report submitted for the 26th Forestry Scientists' Meet there are 18 ongoing projects, of which 12 are externally funded and 6 are university research projects. Most of the externally funded projects towards the industry oriented and clustered to one Department and one set of investigators.
2. Scientists remaining as co principal investigators in the externally funded projects are not having any individual projects to their name.
3. Most of the ongoing projects are not covering the thematic areas relevant to the departments established.

Department-wise Action Plan (2016- 2019)

Department of Tree Breeding

- Varietal development in Annatto (Dr.K.Kumaran, Professor & Head)
- Assemblage of genetic resources of other viable dye yielding species (Dr.K.Kumaran, Professor & Head)
- Establishment of seed orchard in *Terminaliachebula* ((Dr.P.R.Renganayaki, Professor SS&T)

- Establishment of an Arboretum of rare and characteristic species of Western Ghats (Dr.S.UmeshKanna Asst. Professor, Forestry)
- Reproductive biology of *Bixaorellana* (Dr.M.Umadevi Asst. Professor, PBG)
- Genetic characterization *Caesalpiniasappan* by mutation breeding (Dr.P.S.Devanand Asst. Professor, PBG)
- Characterization of nematode biodiversity in forest ecosystem (Dr.P.G.Kavitha Asst. Professor, Nematology)

Department of Agroforestry

- Research on Tree fodder species needs to be strengthened by developing tree hedge model (Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Professor & Head &Dr.R.JudeSudagar, Asst. Professor, Forestry)
- Allelopathic effect of important agroforestry trees need to be studied (Dr.R.JudeSudagar Asst. Professor, Forestry &Dr.K.Sivakumar, Assistant Professor, SS&AC)
- Steps to be taken for varietal development in silk cotton (Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Professor & Head &Dr.R.JudeSudagar Asst. Professor, Forestry)
- Medicinal plant based agroforestry models to be established (Dr.R.JudeSudagar Asst. Professor, Forestry)
- *Albizialebbek* based improvement programme to be strengthened (Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Professor & Head)
- A village may be adopted for demonstration of successful agroforestry models (Dr.JudeSudagarAsst. Professor, Forestry, Dr. K.Ramah, Asst. Professor, Agronomy &Dr.K.Sivakumar, Assistant Professor, SS&AC)

Department of Silviculture

- Developing management practices for fast growing trees viz., *Neolamarckiacadamba*, *Acrocarpusfraxinifolius*and*Dalbergiasissoo* grown in farm settings (Dr.A.Balasubramaniam, Professor & Head, Dr. R.K. Kaleeswari, ProfessorSS&AC)
- Developing yield table for *Meliadubia*, *Gmelinaarborea*, *Ailanthus excelsa*and*Tectonagrandis* grown by farmers (Dr.S.Manivasakan, Asst. Professor, Forestry &Tmt.M.VijayabhamaAsst. Professor, Statistics)

Department of Forest products and Utilization

- Documentation of Ectomycorrhizal fungi during ensuing rainy season (Dr.M.Tilak, Asst. Professor, Microbiology)
- Assessment on the impact of Invasive species in Protected area (STR) season (Dr.K.Baranidharan, Asst. Professor, Forestry)

- Assessment of NFTP in Chitteri and Palani Hills and its Marketing Potential (Dr.R.Revathi, Professor & Head, Dr.K.Baranidharan, Asst. Professor, Forestry and Dr.V.Karthick, Asst. Professor, Economics)

Centre for Excellence in Bio-fuels

- Evaluation and identification of high yielding hybrids in Jatropha (Dr.P.Jayamani, Professor PBG& Dr. S.Vennila, Assistant Professor, Forestry)
- Survey on the status of oil yielding trees and associated industries in Tamil Nadu(Dr. P.Balaji, Asst. Professor, Economics)
- Processing of oil seeds suitable for biofuels (Dr.P.Sudha Asst. Professor, Food Processing Engineering).

Recommendations

1. Identification of thematic areas should be made for each Department.
2. Projects should be formulated based on the thematic areas relevant to the Department
3. There should not be overlapping between the projects proposed from different departments.
4. Each scientist working different departments should have individual research project and they should not be under the umbrella of one individual principal investigator.
5. Scientists from Forestry working in other campuses/stations should also have research projects and the projects should be monitored by the Dean, FC&RI.
6. Though there are many externally funded projects based on the individual capacity and the expertise of the scientists, each department should have theme are and university projects should be formulated fitting to the theme areas.
7. The action plan mentioned above should reflect in the form individual university projects from each of the scientists identified and submitted for the approval.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH