

**RELEASE OF THE COUNTRY REPORT ON THE STATE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES BY
SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India through a national consultative process has brought out the country report on the state of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR). This report was released by Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests, at Chennai on 22.12.2012 in the presence of Smt. Gayathri Devi, Officer on Special Duty, MoEF. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, Director, Shri T.P. Raghunath, Group Co-ordinator Research, Shri K. Ravichandran, Extension Officer, Smt. R. Anandalakshmi, Head, Seed Technology and Dr. Rekha R. Warriar Scientist authors of the book were present.

The Director, IFGTB while briefing the Hon'ble Minister about the report, informed that out of the 2863 tree species available in the country, about 270 trees have been prioritized for their present and potential value for humankind. The report outlines the present status of FGR, in situ and ex situ conservation initiatives adopted in the country, national programmes available for conservation and management, FGR contribution in food security and poverty alleviation and the research needs for FGR.

The Hon'ble Minister during the release complimented the Institute for having brought out the report in the decade of biodiversity, which is the first of its kind. This unique report has immense significance in the conservation and utilization of FGRs and forms the baseline document for the Ministry to plan and support programmes that aim at their conservation and sustainable use. The Minister was of the view that this report would benefit the forest departments, scientific and academic institutions, wood based industries, tree growing communities and other stakeholders handling FGRs. FGR management is a multidisciplinary field and a country driven approach is required to deal with these fragile but strategically important resources which is an integral component of biodiversity. She stated that these important resources which have now been documented in this book needs to be mapped for their better understanding and utilisation. The advantage of this comprehensive document is that it can now be utilized by the state forest departments for planning strategies and effective management for FGRs of their respective states. Hon'ble Minister directed that this document should be made available in regional languages for the guidance for farmers and foresters.

Congratulating the good work done by IFGTB and ICFRE in contributing to livelihood enhancement through various research and extension programmes, Hon'ble Minister emphasized that IFGTB should continue to work with the farmers for increasing the tree cover in the country and provide economic security through tree cultivation.

This report would form the India chapter of the State of World's Forest Genetic Resources to be brought out by FAO in 2013.



Hon'ble Minister releases the country report in presence of Smt. Gayathri Devi, OSD.