

Report on
TRAINING ON 'SOIL AND PLANT ANALYSIS FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT'
6th -10th May 2024
at
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

The ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organised a one week Training on 'Soil and Plant Analysis for Nutrient Management' from 6th - 10th May 2024. Twenty undergraduate chemistry students from the Yuvakshetra Institute of Management Studies, Palakkad, took part in the training course. The training was organised as part of the MoU signed between the two Institutes. The training's primary goals were to expose participants to soil and plant sampling, assess soil fertility, make nutrient recommendations, and create awareness among the student community of the knowledge and skills necessary for effective crop nutrient management.

Dr. A.C. Surya Prabha, Scientist-D and the Training Co-ordinator gave a brief introduction about the importance of soil testing, soil sampling methodologies. Hands-on training was provided for the collection of soil samples using soil augers in the Model Nursery of the Institute. The basic theoretical knowledge on the estimation of different soil properties was explained, and hands-on training for the analysis of soil properties viz, pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon, Available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and laboratory instruments used for soil analysis were provided. For plant samples, hands-on training for the analysis of plant samples, viz, Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium were given. All the theory and practical sessions of the modules were held in the Soil and Water Testing Lab of the institute. The students showed a lot of interest in learning about the concepts and handling of equipment. Also, an opportunity was provided to brief about what they had learned during the training programme. To evaluate the level of understanding of the concepts learned, the students were evaluated for their performance in the form of a written test. Shri. S. Pragadeesh, Technical Assistant, the project fellows and staff of the Silviculture and Forest Management Division assisted the training coordinator.

The one week training ended with the valedictory session on 10th May, 2024. The training coordinator Dr. A. C. Surya Prabha, Scientist-D presented a brief report on the training. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist-G and Group Co-Ordinator Research, encouraged the students to pursue higher education in reputed overseas Institutions. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB, in his valedictory remarks informed about the connection between soil and chemistry. He motivated the students to learn research techniques for knowledge improvement and skill development. The student participants briefed about their learning experience, gave positive feedback about the training module, and stated that the training would be beneficial for their current academic and future research endeavours. The director distributed participation certificates to the students, followed by the formal vote of thanks by Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist-G & Head, Silviculture and Forest Management Division.



Training Co-ordinator briefing about the module



Hands on training on soil sampling



Demonstration of soil sampling techniques and soil profile description



Sh. S. Pragadeesh handling the practical session



Determination of Soil pH and Electrical conductivity



Estimation of soil organic carbon



Soil organic carbon analysis



Available Nitrogen estimation



Estimation of available phosphorus



Dr.A. C. Surya Prabha interacting with the students



Soil available potassium estimation using Flame Photometer



Training Co-ordinator presenting the report



Dr. B. Nagarajan, GCR addressing the participants



Dr.C. Kunhikannan, Director addressing the students



Feed back from the participants



Distribution of certificates by the Director Dr. C. Kunhikannan



Vote of thanks by Dr.C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist-G & Head, SFM Division



Group Photo