



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**  
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To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 23.03.2023

I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**TNAU organized Sixth Annual workshop of Consortium of Industrial Agro Forestry (CIAF) at FC&RI, Mettupalayam**

Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU, Mettupalayam is organizing the Sixth Annual workshop of Consortium of Industrial Agro Forestry (CIAF) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 for promotion of agroforestry in the country. Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Dean (Forestry) & Consortium Coordinator welcomed the gathering and highlighted the role of CIAF in transforming the subsistence agroforestry to Industrial Agroforestry in the state.

Th. Deepak Srivastava IFS, APCCF & Chief Mission Director, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Forest Department was the Chief Guest of the workshop. During his Chief Guest Address, he highlighted the need to cut down on our wood import by increasing the area under tree cover with our indigenous species. We need to cover an area of 12,000 Sq.Km of tree cover in order to increase the forest area from 23.69 Percent to 33 percent which is the mandate of the Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM). Of which 8000 to 10000 Sq.Km area should be covered under farmers holding and requested the farmers and public to join hands with the government to achieve the target as GTM is a peoples' programme. The GTM mission will aid in achieving carbon neutralization by reducing GHG (Green House Gases) emission through afforestation programmes. Out of 2.5 crore seedling planted under GTM, so far 2.0 crores has been geotagged for effective monitoring and carbon monetization. Further, he emphasized the members of the CIAF to enroll themselves in GTM website ([www.greentnmission.com](http://www.greentnmission.com)).

Th.C.Thirumala Rao, DDM, NABARD, Coimbatore facilitated the gathering and highlighted the role of NABARD Facilitation centre at Forest College in proving skill development programmes for various stakeholders including Farmers, Youth, Tribal Community and members FPO's. Mr.M.Veeramani, Chief Manager, ITC Private Ltd. Coimbatore delivered the key note address and emphasized the need for dendroenergy in the cogeneration plants.

Dr.D.Sureshkumar, Director (CARDS) during his felicitation, highlighted the role of Multifunctional Agroforestry Model (MFA) in ensuring continuous income to the farmers. To address the various marketing issues faced by the farmers in the state, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has initiated TNAU-FPO linkage programme to empower the farmers in gaining higher returns. TNAU will provide technical inputs to the farmers and help in networking and preparation of business plans for the FPOs. Mr.Manoj Dabas Deputy Director, Trees Outside Forests India (TOFI) Programme expressed that TOFI programme will work in collaboration with GTM in Tamil Nadu to increase the forest cover.

Inauguration programme was followed by interactive technical sessions on various aspects of industrial agroforestry, varieties, silvicultural practices, value-added products and marketing opportunities and demonstrations on value added products of wood were conducted.

Later, field visits were arranged to expose the participants to Multifunctional Agroforestry model and high value forestry and other precision silvicultural trails. In addition, ITC Dendroenergy project and NABARD Agroforestry Facilitation Centre were launched during the inaugural function. Under the Tamil Nadu Government - Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute's (EDII) Innovation Voucher Programme seed fund was provided to budding entrepreneurs. Certificates and awards were presented to progressive farmers and agroforestry entrepreneurs. Finally, Dr. I. Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Products and Wildlife proposed the formal vote of thanks. About 850 participants including Heads of the Department, Professors, Research scholars, students, farmers and entrepreneurs attended and benefitted from the workshop.

**Public Relations Officer**