

Training on Propagation and Cultivation of *Schumannianthus dichotomus* (Murta)

A training was conducted on Propagation and cultivation of *Schumannianthus dichotomus* (Vern: Patidoi/ Patitara/ Murta) at Tripura State Forest Academy(TSFA), Hatipara, Agartala on 28th Aug, 2024. The training was organized by ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat and conducted by Dr. Prosanta Hazarika (Project Investigator), as resource person in collaboration with ICFRE-Livelihood Extension Center, Agartala. The training was a part of the project 'Sustainable management of NTFPs through conservation and value addition(AICRP 29)'. A total of 38 trainee Foresters of the Academy were attended in the training program.

Smt Paushali Roy, IFS & Director of Tripura State Forest Academy in her opening remark focused on existing role of Murta plant for livelihood of rural poor and opined that the technology for propagation and cultivation will help to conserve the plant species and it will help to reduce over exploration and the unscientific harvesting of the plant from the natural strands. She urged her trainees to learn about propagation and cultivation of Murta in both theory and practical training & demonstrations presented by Dr. Hazarika. Among the other dignitaries Shri Dhiren Kalai, Course Coordinator, TSFA, Smt Archana Das, Faculty Member, TSFA were present during the training. By delivering the ppt training lecture Dr Prosanta Hazarika, has described the techniques for propagation of *Schumannianthus dichotomus* through single node cuttings of primary (bulbus) and secondary branches with the help of 300 ppm rooting hormones of NAA and IBA. Also described about the macro proliferation techniques for production of large scale seedlings, Cultivation techniques including selection of suitable site, soil condition time of planting, spacing, fertilizer application, management of planting, time of harvesting, identifying character of mature plant for harvesting, scientific methods of harvesting etc. He also emphasized on needs of propagation and cultivation of this NTFP species not only for conservation but also for enriching community livelihood. Dr Hazarika gave a practical demonstration of collection of branch cuttings, preparation of cuttings and sealing, preparation of 300 ppm solution of rooting hormones, treatment of cuttings with the hormone, application of fungicides and planting the cuttings in polybag filled with standardized growing media, after care of cuttings etc. The training was ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Sri Niren Das, Chief Technical Officer of ICFRE- Livelihood Extension Centre, Agartala.

A few glimpses of the training program is presented below-



Felicitated Smt Pausahli Roy, Director TSFA, Agartala



Felicitated Mr. Dhiren Kalai, Course Coordinator, TSFA, Agartala



A moment of Director, TSFA addressed the trainees



A moment Dr Prosanta Hazarika, deliver the ppt presentation



Another moment Dr Prosanta Hazarika, deliver the ppt presentation



A moment of practical demonstration for preparation of cuttings



An interactive moment by the trainees with Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, resource person of the training



A moment of practical demonstration for preparation of cuttings





Trainee participated in hands on training



Sri Niren Das, CTO offered vote of thanks



A group photo with the trainees conducted at TSFA, Agartala