

## Forest produce to be marketed at IFGTB soon

COIMBATORE, February 22, 2013



V.K. Bahuguna (second from right), Director-General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, presents a grafted variety of tamarind sapling to a farmer at the Tree Growers Mela in Coimbatore on Thursday. N. Krishnakumar (right), Director, IFGTB, looks on. — Photo: K. Ananthan

A store, Prerna, to market the products of rural artisans, produce of the Joint Forest Management Committees and the products developed through research, will be opened soon at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), said V.K. Bahuguna, Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), here on Thursday.

At the inauguration of the two-day Tree Growers Mela organised by the IFGTB, Mr. Bahuguna said besides providing a platform to market the produce, the shop would help take the innovations from the laboratory to the land at a faster pace.

To ensure that the researches reached farmers on time, the Van Vigyan Kendras would soon be networked with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Forestry Extension

Centres of the State Forest Department in 30 districts of Tamil Nadu.

Responding to the grievance of the tree growers regarding shortage of harvesters, Mr. Bahuguna said that ICFRE sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh for procuring harvesters and the equipment would be provided to farmers who would be divided in clusters.

He also announced the sanction of Rs. 60 lakh to farmers in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala to raise high quality seedlings and another Rs. 25 lakh for commercialisation of products developed out of research.

District Collector M. Karunakaran, who inaugurated an expo, said that waste management with special reference to plastics was becoming a major challenge in urban areas. Degradation of forests, rapid urbanisation for livelihood, education and various other needs, and industrialisation were hitting the environment hard. Forestry was the key to all environment issues.

Chair of Excellence of ICFRE on Forest Genetic Resources S. Nagarajan urged the researchers and farmers to try going for inter-crops among trees to get some regular returns even while waiting for the trees to yield after six years.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/forest-produce-to-be-marketed-at-ifgtb-soon/article4441362.ece>