

Introduction Trials of Promising *Casuarina equisetifolia* Cultivars in North Eastern Odisha

Rajiv Kumar, Harsa B Udgata and Gopal Mahapatro

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

SFTRI Campus, P.O, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar 751 003, Odisha, India

Abstract

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project's (OFSDP) activities include establishment of *Casuarina* shelter belt plantations along the eastern shore lines and as also in farm lands in Balasore and Bhadrak districts of Odisha State. To demonstrate the potential of genetically improved seeds from seed orchards, a trial was established in collaboration with the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. The trial was planted at Chandipur, Balasore during 2012 with five seedlots from different seed orchards of IFGTB. Despite odds like logistic problems in transporting bare-rooted planting material by rail, they were replanted in containers and then field-planted. Early results at one year age showed that accession CE 5 recording better height growth (3.91 m, +/- 0.74) compared to CE 4 (3.13 m, +/- 0.47) and local seed sources (3.16 m, +/- 0.65). The best seed source will be used for plantation programmes in coastal Odisha.