

## Registration of new crop varieties begins

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V.S. PALANIAPPAN



Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has commenced the registration process for new variety of forestry crops. Director of IFGTB N. Krishnakumar said there that there was an increased awareness and commitment to preserve forests. The plantations outside forest areas fulfil the need for timber and other wood products. New varieties of trees that can grow vigorously even on soils with low nutrients and moisture was required to raise high-yielding plantations.

### Wood production

IFGTB had been developing fast-growing varieties of different tree species for over 25 years. Superior clones of the short-rotation (3 to 5 years) crops, casuarinas, and eucalyptus had been developed for large scale cultivation. These clones were widely planted by farmers which could double the wood production. They fetched substantial additional income to farmers and ensure pulpwood supply to paper industries facing acute shortage of raw material. India enacted the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001 (PPVFR) to protect rights of

farmers. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) was established to implement the Act. Under this Act, plant varieties could be registered with the authority by following the standard test for distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS Testing). Registration was given for 15 years to crops and 18 years for others. During this period, the variety could be used only with the permission of those who have registered them.

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Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/registration-of-new-crop-varieties-begins/article5370073.ece>