

Role of Forestry Extension in Expanding Casuarina Cultivation Area in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Casuarina is among the most important tree species cultivated along the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu State way back 1951. Due to its multiple use and good economic returns, farmers also showed interest in cultivating Casuarina crop either as a pure crop or as inter crop in their farmlands in other parts of the State. Research works are being carried out on Casuarina cultivation by the Research Organization such as IFGTB, TNAU, Tamil Nadu SFRI and wood based industries like TNPL. Though many technological innovations are taking place by continuous research of various research organizations in the State, the transfer of these innovations is not happening to the expected level. Research findings emanated from these institutes are being transferred to the farmlands through 30 Forestry Extension Centres formed all over the State by the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu. These Forestry Extension Centres transferring information of Casuarina cultivation to farmers by organizing training programme, laying demonstration plots in progressive farmers' land, publicity and propaganda and organizing awareness programme among the farming community. Thus, the Forestry Extension programme supports the expansion of Casuarina cultivation in Tamil Nadu State. This paper deals with the role of in Forestry Extension cultivation of Casuarina crop in Tamil Nadu.