

Newsletter for the Month of October 2019
Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bengaluru

1. Significant Research Findings:

Biological degradation and weathering behavior of wood polymer composites (ICFRE Funded project) (2016-September 2019)

Natural weathering of wood polymer composite for one year resulted in loss in mechanical strengths of the composite material. The loss in flexural strength was in the range of 6% to 15% and the loss in tensile strength was in the range of 10% to 18%. Studies on fungal resistance indicated significant weight loss (upto 18%) in composites at 60% wood content indicating the need for fungicide in the composition. The composites were free from any termite attack in multi-locational termite exposure.

2. Publications:

- Chauhan SS, D Annapurna, AN Arun Kumar, Geeta Joshi (2019) Phenotypic assessment of wood density and stiffness in *Meliadubia* plantations from three locations using non-destructive tools. Journal of Indian Academy of Wood Science, doi:10.1007/s13196-019-00247-8. Published online - 25th October, 2019
- Muthu Kumar A and DivyaBharathi M (2019). Field guide on management of shade trees (special emphasis to *Acrocarpusfraxinifolius* in parts of coffee plantation at Kodagu district, Karnataka, a manual was published as a project outcome.
- Muthu Kumar A and Manoj Kumar PE (2019). Urban Tree Risk Assessment- A pictorial guide, a manual was published as a project outcome.

3. Consultancies: Nil

4. Tree Growers Mela/KisanMela: Nil

Institute	Participated	Duration	Place
NIL			

5. Visit abroad: Nil

6. Meetings Organized:

Sl. No	Topic	Duration	No. of participants	Beneficiaries
1	Research Advisory Group Meeting.	22 Oct 2019 (1 day)	16	RAG members comprising of subject matter experts from Forest Department, University, industry etc

7. Meeting Attended:

Sl. No	Topic	Duration	No. of participants	Beneficiaries
1	Meeting on "Working group on Western Ghats" to finalize the Ecological Sensitive Zone (ECZ) of Western Ghats at IIRS, Dehradun.	22 – 24 Oct 2019 (3 days)	1	The six states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat spread across the Western Ghats.

8. Training Programs:

a) Organized:

Sl. No	Topic	Duration	No. of participants	Beneficiaries
1	Wood Science (Under VVK)	03 Oct 2019	35	Forest Guard Trainees of Forest Technical & Administrative Training Institute, Kadugodi, Karnataka
2	Field identification	14 - 17 Oct 2019	55	III BSc (Forestry) students

	of certain important timbers	(4 days)		College of Forestry, Ponnampet, Kodagu
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9. **Rajbhasha News:** Nil

10. **Visit of Dignitaries:** Nil

11. **Popularizing forestry through Radio/TV etc.:** Nil

12. **Awards:** Nil

13. **Miscellaneous:**

- Under Prakriti Program 18 students of B.Sc (Interior Design) from NITTE School of Fashion Technology and Interior Design, Bangalore visited Institute of Wood Science and Technology on 24 October 2019
- As part of induction training 88 newly recruited Deputy Range Forest Officers from Illwala Range, Karnataka Forest Department visited Institute of Wood Science and Technology on 18 October 2019. They were brief on important topics like wood properties and utilization, wood preservation, wood gasification, tissue culture, bamboo identification and propagation techniques. They visited nursery, wood museum, xylarium and Advanced Woodworking Training Centre.
- As part of south India tour 41 Range Forest Officers from Central Academy of Forestry Education, Kurseong, visited the institute on 21 October 2019
- As part of curriculum 40 students of MSc (Wood Science and Technology) from Forest Research Institute Deemed to be University, Dehradun visited the institute on 30 October 2019
- Under the consultancy project entitled “Monitoring of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) accelerated afforestation programme of plantation of 10 million trees” - in Karnataka State, detailed survey was conducted in the 5 land parcels (Kolisalu-Pura, Hosahalli, Jambhalli, Bommathi and Talagadde) raised in Sagar forest divisions by Karnataka Forest Department to study the survival percentage as a post monsoon study and the relevant photographs were uploaded through Bhuvan app.
- Dr. Muthu Kumar A , Scientist – E attended DPR circle level meeting for Rajahmundry Circle and WLM, Krishna was organised and executed on 30/10/2019 at Vijayawada, followed by field visit to spot agricultural landscape/Urban Landscape/Forest landscape adjoining river Krishna.
- Dr. Muthu Kumar A , Scientist – E attended DPR circle level meeting for Guntur Circle was organised and executed on 31/10/2019 at Guntur, followed by field visit to spot agricultural landscape/Urban Landscape/ Forest landscape adjoining river Krishna.
- Dr. Muthu Kumar A , Scientist – E participated as expert member in expert committee meeting held at BBMP Office, Corporation circle, Bangalore on 05/10/19 regarding evaluation of application for tree felling.

- Dr. Muthu Kumar A , Scientist – E carried out Field visit on 17/10/19 to Varathur (#5, Devasthanagalu, Varathur, Karnataka 87) regarding inspection of a fallen tree.
- Dr. Muthu Kumar A , Scientist – E submitted a report on Translocation of Trees to Gujarat Forest Department on 21/10/19, as per instructions of the Director.
- Wood testing enquiries (3 samples for identification, 2 samples for moisture content, 1 sample for specific gravity tests and 5 samples for other tests, were received and test reports of 8 samples for identification, 4 samples for moisture content, 4 samples for specific gravity tests were sent to the concerned department/parties.

14. **Staff News:**

- Dr. Pankaj Kumar Aggarwal, Scientist – G expired on 08-10-2019