



# VVK



## ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY (ICFRE-IFB), HYDERABAD

A report on VVK training on ‘High-yielding hybrid clones of *Casuarina* and their cultivation’ on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad under VVK.

A one-day training programme on “High-yielding hybrid clones of *Casuarina* and their cultivation” was organized on 19 November 2025 at the ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity (ICFRE-IFB), Hyderabad, under the Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK)–Telangana. The training programme was aimed to enhance the knowledge of farmers on hybrid clones of *Casuarina*, their cultivation techniques and market opportunities.

The training programme began with a welcome address by **Dr. Kavi Sidharthan, Scientist-C and Course Director, ICFRE-IFB**, who welcomed the gathering. He gave a brief overview of the training and emphasized the importance of the *Casuarina* hybrid clones. Opening remarks were delivered by **Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-D, Head of Extension**. He emphasized the need for productive clonal material to enhance plantation-based livelihoods. Further, **Shri E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, ICFRE-IFB** delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the importance of High-yielding hybrid clones of *Casuarina* developed by ICFRE-IFGTB & their superior performance in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

Later, **Shri Baskar, a progressive farmer from Vandavasi, Tamil Nadu**, shared his experience with the farmers on *Casuarina* hybrid clone cultivation. He explained the silvicultural practices he adopted to achieve a yield of 125 tonnes per acre. **Dr. A. Nicodamus, Scientist-G, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore** interacted with the farmers through online mode.

During the interaction, he shared several points on the scope of cultivating *Casuarina* hybrid clones in Telangana and discussed the buy-back policy offered by paper mills.

**Dr. Kavi Sidharthan, Scientist–C** and **Shri Kiran, Technician** delivered a presentation on the best practices for cultivating *Casuarina* hybrid clones, covering site selection, planting methods, intercultural operations, and yield expectations. They also presented the data on performance of different hybrid clones across various locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The afternoon session began with the presentation by Shri. **P. Ganesh Babu, DGM, APL, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh** on “**Marketing and Economics of clonal Casuarina hybrid cultivation**”. He discussed market demand, industrial procurement processes, pricing mechanisms, and cost-benefit analysis of *Casuarina* plantations.

A field visit was organized with the support of **Shri K. Sudheer, TA, Shri G. Kiran, TC, and Shri E. Manikanta Reddy, TC** at the ICFRE–IFB campus following the lecture sessions. During the visit to the AICRP-1 clonal trial plot, farmers observed the superior performance of *Casuarina* hybrid clones compared to the seed sources of *C. equisetifolia* and *C. junghuhniana*. The participants remained highly attentive throughout the training and actively raised questions and sought clarifications.

During the feedback session, participants expressed the need for such trainings to be conducted regularly in the future. Certificates were distributed to all participants upon the successful completion of the programme. The one-day training concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Dr. P. S. Srikanth, Scientist-C and Nodal Officer, VVK-Telangana**. He acknowledged the contributions of the speakers, staff, and participants in making the programme a success.

The overall program is coordinated by **Extension Team, ICFRE-IFB, Hyderabad**.



## Glimpses of the Program





