

**Press Release No. 1016**

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**Sub:** Indira priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM) Award –Awarded to Forestry Extension Wing of Forest Department.

Tamilnadu Forest Department has established the Forestry Extension wing in the year 1997 exclusively to deal with transfer of improved technology of tree husbandry practice in private lands, motivate the people to take up tree planting in their lands, and create awareness among the youths and school children about the benefits of trees and Forests. To carryout the above activities 30 Forestry Extension centre have been formed in all Districts in the State (except Tiruppur and Ariyalur Districts). These Forestry Extension centres are producing and supplying quality seedlings to needy people, publicity and propaganda works on tree growing activities are being carried out. Trainings are being offered to farmers and SHG members on Tree growing practices, nursery raising vermicompost production etc. Demonstration plots having education value of tree cultivation practices are formed in the progressive farmer's lands and there the neighbouring people are motivated to grow trees in their land. So far 1019 numbers of demonstration plots with tree species like *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Melia dubia*, *Bambusa species like Bambusa vulgaris*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Bambusa balcooa*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Ailanthus excelsa* in Agro-forestry as well as block planting models have been formed in 1683 numbers progressive farmers lands. Forestry Extension wing also closely working with local NGOS/VOS and organizing awareness programme among the people on various environmental issues with a view to promote conservation and judicious use of natural resources. Further the Forestry Extension wing also regularly organizing seminars and workshops on various subjects related to Tree growing practices with farmers and share their views and accordingly taking up the Extension activities.

The Forestry Extension wing also taken special steps to form Registered Tree growers societies in all Districts and so far 29 such societies have been formed in the State. These societies are extending support to the Forestry Extension wing in identification of right persons for tree planting programme, and also carrying the Forestry Extension messages to the people.

Tamilnadu Government has introduced a Novel tree planting programme in the name of "Tree cultivation in Private lands" since 2007. The aims and benefits of this programme have been successfully taken to the people by the Forestry Extension wing by organizing seminars, workshop giving wide publicity. Thereby, for the last 3 year i.e. upto 2009-10; 25,830 Acres of marginal and waste lands have been brought under tree cover. During the current year actions are being taken to add another 10,975 acre of lands under tree cover by planting different tree species like Tectona grandis, Gmelina arborea, Ailanthus, Melia dubia, Casuarina, Neem etc.,

In recognizing the service of the Forestry Extension wing of Tamil Nadu Forest Department in carrying out the Forestry Extension activities and for motivating the people to take up tree planting in private lands, The Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forest have selected the Forestry Extension wing of Tamil Nadu for the prestigious "Indira priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM)" Award in the category of Institution / Organization under Government for the year 2010. The award will be presented on 19th November 2010 at New Delhi.

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