Field Assessment of Cultivation Potential of Sandalwood and Red Sanders in Nagaland by ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat

A team of scientists comprising of Dr. Swapnendu Pattanaik, Director, ICFRE-IFB; Dr. B.N. Diwakara, Scientist-F, ICFRE-IWST, Bengaluru; Dr. Satyam Bordoloi, Scientist-E, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat (Assam) and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Prajapat, Scientist-B, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat (Assam) undertook field visits to different locations in Nagaland on 10 November, 2026 to assess the cultivation potential of Sandalwood (Santalum album) and Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus). The scientific team assessed the growth performance of the two species, heartwood development in mature trees, and the suitability of local soil and climatic conditions for their commercial cultivation.

The team of scientists presented their field observations and technical assessments regarding the commercial cultivation prospects of these species in Nagaland during a meeting at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima, under the chairmanship of Shri Y. Kikheto Sema, IAS, Principal Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Nagaland on 11 November, 2026. The meeting was coordinated by Shri Sidramappa M. C., Chief Conservator of Forests, Kohima.

The assessment indicated encouraging prospects for Sandalwood cultivation, particularly, in the foothill regions of Nagaland, where favorable moisture conditions and fertile soil support its growth. However, despite satisfactory physical growth of Red Sanders, its heartwood development was found to be slow and had not attained the quality required for commercial purposes. The scientists, therefore, recommended further technical studies before promoting its cultivation among farmers. In this regard, ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) remains committed to provide scientific and technical support for sustainable forestry development and the promotion of commercially important tree species in Northeast India.

PHOTO GALLERY: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT: -






GPS Map Camera

