



THE HINDU

## IFGTB's clones of eucalyptus hybrids, *Punnai* get approval

STAFF REPORTER

COIMBATORE

Two clones of eucalyptus hybrids and six clones of *Calophyllum inophyllum* (*Punnai*) developed by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, have got the approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for release.

They were among the 22 clones of different trees which received approval for release from the Variety Releasing Committee of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Subhash Chandra, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, recently.

According to a release, four institutes of ICFRE - the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun; the IFGTB, Coimbatore; the Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP), Ranchi; and the Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur, - developed high yielding clones of important forestry species *Azadirachta indica* (neem), *Calophyllum*

*inophyllum*, *Eucalyptus* hybrid, *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Populus deltoides*.

The clones were developed under the tree improvement programme of forestry tree species to improve yield, quality, resistance and productivity to meet the demand for domestic consumption by industries.

The IFGTB had worked on interspecific hybrids from three different species namely *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis*. It developed two clones of eucalyptus hybrids having growth superiority of more than 10 % over and above the best clone of the institute, the release said. Six clones of *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Punnai* in Tamil, valued for its fruit and oil content are the other clones developed by the IFGTB for commercial cultivation in southern States.

While FRI, Dehradun, developed six genotypes of neem for commercial cultivation, the AFRI, Jodhpur, developed three clones of *Dalbergia sissoo*, which give high timber yield, for Gujarat.