

Assessment of economic losses due to gall infestation in trees required, IFGTB director says

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COIMBATORE: The extent of economic losses incurred due to infestations by gall causing insects must be assessed, said Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding director Mohit Gera on Tuesday. Galls are the plant's reaction to an insect attack and are usually in the form of an abnormal outgrowth. While some only undergo stress, many trees see a major fall in productivity or even die. Institute officials say that many eucalyptus and erythrina trees have been affected by this problem. In a bid to take stock of the extent and types of gall infestations on commonly planted trees in the country, IFGTB had organised a national workshop on gall inducing arthropods or insects on forest trees. Galls are a tumour like external growth that starts appearing on trees, when they are infested by certain insects like the Eulophidae or Hymenoptera. In his inaugural address, Gera stressed on the need for an assessment of the economic losses incurred due to the infestations by the gall causing insects. He also emphasised the need to develop better understanding of the insect behaviour in the wake of climate change. IFGTB scientist A Karthikeyan said the aim of the workshop was to take stock of the present situation of gall infestations on commonly planted trees in the country and conduct a reassessment about whether it has spread to other plants too. Scientists said the Eulophidae has been known to inflict economic damage to Eucalyptus plantations and Erythrina, a commonly planted flowering tree, which act as a support for pepper cultivation. The workshop was attended by national level gall-arthropod specialists from different parts of the country and, students and researchers working on arthropod-induced plant galls.

SOURCE:- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/assessment-of-economic-losses-due-to-gall-infestation-in-trees-required-ifgtb-director/articleshow/65026005.cms>