




# TREE HEALTH HELPLINE

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Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Thrissur- 680 653, Kerala



## A comprehensive helpline which can attend to all queries related to tree planting and management

<b>site selection:</b>	identifying the right locales for tree planting species-
<b>site matching:</b>	identifying which tree species are suited for a given site
<b>planting:</b>	recommendations on spacing and time of planting
<b>thinning:</b>	information on when and how to thin woodlots
<b>soil testing:</b>	quantifying soil nutrients
<b>fertilizer application:</b>	recommendations on type, quantity and timing of fertilizer use
<b>pest, disease and weed management:</b>	protocols for monitoring and recommendations on pest, disease and weed control with special focus on ecofriendly methods
<b>multi-species interactions:</b>	knowledge on species mixing and their planting protocols
<b>landscape level afforestation programmes:</b>	logistical support for large scale tree planting efforts
<b>tree/wood sample identification:</b>	identification of wood samples and their strength measurements
<b>preservative treatments:</b>	timber seasoning protocols and preservative treatment methods economic valuation: Economic projection and valuation of woodlots

Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) in its three decades of existence has emerged as a hub of tropical forest research. One of the leading branches of research which cut across subject disciplines was the effort to solve tree health problems. This includes problems faced at single tree level to those at nurseries and plantation levels. Thousands of queries have been attended to, problems diagnosed and remedies prescribed. Various divisions of KFRI like Soil Science, Entomology, Pathology, Botany, Silviculture, Wood Science, Statistics and Wild life and Physiology had actively involved in either attending to the problems in both multi-disciplinary and mono-disciplinary modes.

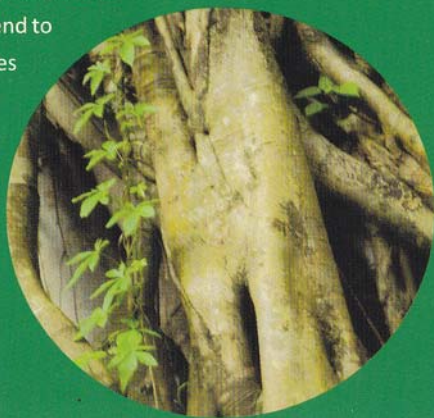


The expertise available at KFRI as of now in the field of tree health is thus unparalleled in the state of Kerala.

The Kerala Forest Research Institute has launched a comprehensive helpline which can attend to all queries related to tree planting and management like site selection, species-site matching, planting, thinning, soil testing, fertilization, pest, disease and weed management, multi-species interactions, landscape level afforestation programmes, tree/wood sample identification, preservative treatments and economic valuation. The clientele of the service will be the general public including students who participate in tree planting programmes and also private and public firms.

The general consciousness on the importance of tree cover is increasing in the state, thanks to the various government initiatives and awareness building efforts of the media and many grass root level non-governmental organizations. Efforts to plant the mangrove trees in coastal belts started off by personal and organizational initiatives, the efforts by major industries to establish green belt around their factories, effort to stabilize the coastal zone by massive tree planting in the wake of Tsunami incidence, the initiative by the education department to make available quality saplings to school students and to monitor their growth in a large scale manner and the eagerness of many a families to plant trees around the house- all of these are examples of increased sensibility in the state towards tree planting. However, there exists no single window in the state which can attend to the diverse type of concerns, problems and queries of this fast increasing number of individuals and organizations interested in tree planting.

Banking on the rich experience of the scientists who have been researching and attending to tree health issues on a real time basis, KFRI would try to answer the queries to a wide section of the populace, thereby helping them to



take better care of the trees they grow. Unlike most agricultural crops, trees have a long rotation time and the space taken up by the tree/s is best utilized when problems with tree health are adequately addressed at the earliest point of time. Students who have initiated the process of tree planting will be made aware of this service which would eventually develop not just better trees but also a better public awareness of the issues of tree health and the facilities that are available to address them. The helpline is expected to create a wide window for effective communication and percolation of research results to the general public. An active research wing will be the backbone of the helpline which will look into the pattern of incidence of tree health problems across the state. This will aid in developing proactive measures of containment as in the case of pest or disease outbreaks.

### Scientific team

Dr. VV Sudheendrakumar	Entomology
Dr. TV Sajeev	Entomology
Dr. George Mathew	Entomology
Dr. K. Mohanadas	Entomology
Dr. RC Pandalai	Silviculture
Dr. M. Balasundaran	Pathology
Dr. C. Mohanan	Pathology
Dr. EJ Maria Florence	Pathology
Dr. Thomas P. Thomas	Soil Science
Dr. N. Sasidharan	Botany
Dr. KK Seethalakshmi	Physiology
Dr. T. Surendran	Physiology
Dr. M. Sivram	Statistics
Dr. PK Thulasidas	Wood Science

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For more information  
The Director

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