

Kerala is often described as “God’s own country” in tourism parlance and Thrissur is the “cultural capital” of Kerala. Thrissur Pooram, the annual cultural extravaganza with scores of caparisoned elephants is a unique feature of the city. It coincides with the harvest of the summer crop of rice in the Kole Lands and is witnessed by people from all over the world. The famous Munnar hills and Periyar Tiger Reserves are within a distance of about 125 km and the port city of Kochi (Cochin), 75 km away. The weather in Thrissur in December will be pleasant (max. temp ~31°C; min. temp ~23 °C).

### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND ACCOMMODATION

Travel fare to and fro for journey will be provided. Reimbursement of expenditure will be limited to AC II Tier/AC bus by the shortest route. Travel by air is not admissible. Photocopies of train / bus tickets should be produced for the reimbursement. For out-station participants, rent-free accommodation will be provided in the University campus. Wholesome meals and refreshments will be as per the normal rules of training course. Local participants will be provided with lunch and inter-session tea.

### HOW TO REACH

- Distance from Thrissur Railway Station/ Thrissur KSRTC Bus Stand to the Venue is 12 km
- Catch any line bus to Palakkad/Peechi Dam and get down at KAU main campus bus stop (Thottapadi) in the National Highway 544
- Pre-paid Auto-rickshaws, Taxis and Uber are available at Thrissur

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Last date of Application** - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
**Intimation of Selection** - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**Confirmation of Participation** - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**Course Commencement** - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019



### CONTACT ADDRESS

#### Course Director

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#### Course Coordinator

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ICAR sponsored Winter School  
On

## Agroforestry for Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity Conservation and Resilience in Agroecological Systems: Current Trends and Future Strategies

December 03 - 23, 2019



Organised by



**DEPARTMENT OF SILVICULTURE AND AGROFORESTRY  
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY  
KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

## BACKGROUND

Agroforestry is a combination of agriculture and forestry on the same land management unit. It emerged as a scientific discipline in the late 1970's. Although the Green Revolution (GR) led to substantial increase in food grains, it was soon realized that many of the GR technologies that placed a heavy demand on increased use of agrochemicals and other costly inputs were beyond the reach of resource-poor farmers in the developing countries. Faced with these challenges and consequences of deforestation, ecologists produced resounding evidence of positive influence of forests and trees on the resilience of ecosystems. Anthropologists and social scientists working on farmer attitudes to improved land-use systems highlighted the importance of mixed systems in traditional cultures.

India is perhaps the cradle of agroforestry in the world. Cultivating trees and agricultural crops in combination with one another is an ancient practice that is as old as agriculture itself. The so-called tropical homegardens, a time tested example of sustainable agroforestry, is perhaps the oldest form of sedentary agriculture after shifting cultivation, another traditional agroforestry practice. Today, the well-recognized role and potential of agroforestry for food security, poverty alleviation, eco restoration, and climate-change mitigation make it an essential component of rural development agendas at local, regional, and global scales. In short, agroforestry has come of age conspicuously as a science-based land use option.

Past 35 years of research on agroforestry through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Agroforestry has been instrumental in developing location specific agroforestry system across the country. Furthermore, the National Agroforestry Policy-2014 provided the policy framework for the promotion of agroforestry as an economically viable, ecologically sound and socially acceptable farming system.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Agroforestry and other integrated land-use systems are prominently mentioned in the current discussions on climate-change mitigation and ecosystem sustainability. Agroforestry is indeed recognized as a key component of the concepts of “climate-smart- agriculture” and “sustainable intensification” that are now being promoted as the new rallying themes of agriculture and land use in the future. The scientific foundation of the concepts is that such integrated systems offer both production benefits and protective (ecosystem) services that can be realized simultaneously without adversely impacting the natural resource capital. The major, scientifically proven, ecosystem services of agroforestry systems include soil productivity and protection, climate-change mitigation through enhanced carbon sequestration, water-quality improvement and biodiversity conservation.

The course will provide an overview of the advances in these topics, relate them to the participants' experience, and highlight the opportunities for exploiting these potentials in various agroecological contexts. The course will be conducted in an interactive setting. A field visit to nearby agroforestry farms / research centres and the ensuing group discussion will enrich the participants' experience and enable and encourage them to broaden their capacity to better exploit the potentials under their own natural and farming situations.

## COURSE TOPICS

The Winter School program broadly cover the topics as :

- Overview of agroforestry systems: distribution, types, characteristics, importance, recent advances and developments
- Ecosystem services of agroforestry systems : Soil productivity and protection, Climate-change mitigation: Carbon sequestration, Water-quality improvement, Biodiversity conservation Incorporating agroforestry principles and practices in the design of Climate-smart agriculture

- Low input technologies for marginal farmers: Systems that ensure livelihood and nutritional security such as fruit forests and medicinal tree gardens and tree based industrial agroforestry models.

## ELIGIBILITY

Candidates holding the rank of Scientist / Assistant Professor and above or equivalent in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)— including ICAR institutes, SAU/CAU/ Agricultural Faculties of AMU, BHU, Vishwa Bharti and Nagaland University— possessing Master's or Doctoral degree in Agriculture and allied sciences are eligible to apply for the Winter School. However, the final selection will be made only if the application duly recommended by the competent authority is received. No course fee will be charged from the participants.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are invited from interested eligible candidates through the online CBP portal of ICAR (<http://cbp.icar.gov.in>). Register by login as candidate with login ID and password (detailed guidelines are available in the website). Fill the proforma and submit the form. Take the print out of submitted form and get it approved by the competent authority of the applicants organization. Scan and upload the approved copy at above mentioned portal before last date. An advance (scanned) copy of the application form may be sent to Course Director through email. After receiving confirmation mail from the Course Director, please affirm your acceptance for the training. A registration fee (non refundable) of Rs. 50/- will be collected from the participants at the time of registration in form of postal order / demand draft in favour of Dean, College of Forestry, KAU payable at SBI, Kerala Agri. Uni. Campus Branch, Vellanikkara (IFSC code SBIN0070670).

## VENUE

The Winter School will be organized at College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur, Kerala. College of Forestry is a leading institution in the country dedicated to forestry education and research.