



## Report on Celebration of 17<sup>th</sup> Parthenium Awareness Week, 16-22 August, 2022



The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore celebrated 17<sup>th</sup> Parthenium Awareness Week, 16-22 August, 2022 by organizing *Parthenium* removal Programme in the institute. The main aim of this event was to create and spread awareness on Parthenium which is an invasive alien species of national significance. Since its introduction from 1950s, it has invaded 35 million hectares of cultivated, uncultivated, waste lands, road sides and railway tracks of the country.



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of the institute, inaugurated the programme and highlighted the need for removal of *Parthenium hysterophorus*. He informed that *Parthenium hysterophorus* produce large number of small flowers and seeds of light weight that are easily dispersed by the wind to distant places. He also cautioned that it can also be a cause for allergic respiratory problems, contact dermatitis, mutagenicity in human and livestock. He also highlighted that all citizens should be aware about the negative impact of Parthenium and its removal from their surrounding environment.



The Parthenium removal programme was carried out in the Botanical garden of the institute. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director of the institute, Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist F and Head of FECC Division, Dr. B. Nagarajan, Scientist-G, Technical Staff and Research scholars of the Division participated in the programme.



