

Field Visit and Plantation Activity at Pongamia Pinnata Clonal Test Site

(As part of *Karthika Vanasamaradhana 2025*)

Regional Forest Research Centre, Rajahmundry

Date: 06/11/2025

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Students: I, II & III BBA(H)

Faculty who accompanied students:

1. Dr. B. Prathima
2. Smt T. Mani Ratnam
3. Smt P. Prashanti Kumari



As part of the Karthika Vanasamaradhana 2025 celebrations initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh and Vanam–Manam programmes, the Department of Commerce and Management, Government College (A), Rajahmundry, organised a field visit and plantation activity at the Regional Forest Research Centre (RFRI), Rajahmundry, functioning under the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). The initiative aimed to sensitise students to environmental protection, conservation practices, and the importance of active participation in community-driven green initiatives.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. B. Prathima, Faculty Coordinator – Experiential Learning Programme, who obtained the necessary permissions from the Forest Department authorities and the Principal of the college. She meticulously planned and supervised all arrangements related to logistics, transportation, communication, and student coordination, ensuring smooth and effective execution of the field activity. Her efforts helped create a structured learning experience that aligned academic objectives with experiential engagement.

During the visit, the students enthusiastically participated in a plantation programme at the *Pongamia pinnata* clonal test site. *Pongamia pinnata*, commonly known as Karanja or Indian Beech Tree, is a leguminous species of high ecological and economic significance. The forestry officials explained that the species is highly valued for its role in biofuel production, soil fertility enhancement through nitrogen fixation, and the restoration of degraded landscapes. These characteristics make it a promising candidate for sustainable energy initiatives and agroforestry interventions.

The plantation was carried out by the students of BBA (Honours) under the guidance of **Sri R. Srinivas, State Silviculturist**, and his research team from the Regional Forest Research Centre. The scientists informed the students that clones of *Pongamia pinnata* are collected from various geographic regions to evaluate their adaptability, vigour, and productivity under controlled environmental conditions. As part of this long-term experimental study, the 11th batch consisting of 30 clones was planted by the students during the visit. The research team educated students on the specific performance parameters under evaluation—such as branching pattern, growth rate, fruiting behaviour, oil content, and overall biomass potential—which help identify superior genotypes for large-scale propagation.

The forestry officials further explained that, upon completion of the evaluation process, the best-performing clones will be distributed to farmers to encourage large-scale cultivation. This will not only support sustainable biofuel development but also contribute to improved livelihood opportunities, climate resilience, and rural economic development. Through this interaction, students gained valuable insights into how scientific forestry research contributes to national priorities such as biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and the promotion of eco-friendly energy alternatives.

The interactive session with the forestry scientists enriched students' understanding of how environmental stewardship can be effectively integrated with management principles. Students were able to appreciate the relevance of research-based decision-making, resource management, and long-term sustainability practices within the broader framework of economic planning. This field-based learning experience significantly deepened their awareness of the interconnectedness between business education, environmental responsibility, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging them to become responsible future managers committed to ecological well-being and sustainable growth.

