



Report
on
the Celebration of
VAN MAHOTSAV 2021



Organized by

ENVIS Resource Partner

on

**Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore**

Van Mahotsav 2021 Celebrations by IFGTB ENVIS

The ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore celebrated Van Mahotsav 2021 by organizing a Tree Sapling Planting Programme following social distancing in the light of Covid-19. The main aim of this event was to create and spread awareness about the importance of tree planting and role of individuals in protecting the environment from degrading by planting indigenous trees.

Director Dr C Kunhikannan, inaugurated the function and released an awareness poster for students. During his Special address, Dr Kunhikannan highlighted that trees are the most precious gift given to mankind and it is our duty to preserve it. Director highlighted that humans are dependent on trees for their needs; Van Mahotsav should be utilized in a creative way. The need of the hour is that all the destruction caused by humans can only be balanced through afforestation. Each and every citizen should plant more trees and spread awareness about the conservation of the trees, so that even the illiterate section of society could understand the importance of tree planting, he added.

Saplings of indigenous medicinal and timber tree species like Belleric Myrobalan (Thanni), Portia tree (Poovarasu), Banyan, Shisham, Pongamia (Pungam), Ilanji, Athi, Atcha Maram, Red Tamarind, Amla, Date palm tree etc. were planted in Forest Campus by officers, staff members and students.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and Coordinator ENVIS spoke on the significance of this annual tree planting festival in India started by K.M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food in 1950. In 2019, the world lost 38 lakh hectares of tropical primary forest, equivalent to losing a football ground area of forests every six seconds. In India, however, an increase of 0.65% forests over the previous assessment in 2017 has been reported, he pointed out. Increased awareness and conservation strategies have resulted in safeguarding the invaluable tree resources. Dr Warriar also delivered an awareness lecture on the significance of conservation of sacred groves in a webinar organized by Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala Forest Department.

“Plant a tree sapling photography challenge” was also organized as part of Vana Mahotsav 2021 and people from different walks of life across India participated. E-certificates were awarded to all. Softcopy of the awareness poster was transmitted electronically among the different stakeholders. Dr T Vamadevan, Information Officer proposed the vote of thanks.









ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
 P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

VAN MAHOTSAV 2021

1st - 7th July 2021



INDIA'S



ANNUAL TREE FESTIVAL



BENEFITS OF TREE PLANTING

Combat climate change

Conserves energy

Cleans the air

Saves water

Prevents pollution

Prevents erosion

Assures food security

Provides habitats

Provides shelter

Provides good health

Economic values