



Report
on
International Day for Biological Diversity



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

International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 Observance by IFGTB ENVIS

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore (IFGTB ENVIS) commemorated the International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 on 20 May 2022 by organizing an awareness event. The main objective of the event is to create awareness among students and general public about the significance of biodiversity and its role in sustainable development and human well-being.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator during his awareness lecture, elaborated about the current year's theme "Building a shared future for all life". Dr Warriar explained that the action oriented and fitting within the context of the ongoing United Nations Decade on Restoration, which highlights that biodiversity is the answer to several sustainable development challenges, the slogan conveys the message that biodiversity - from ecosystem-based approaches to climate and/or nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security and sustainable livelihoods- is the foundation upon which we can build back better. As the global community is called to re-examine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy etc.,. As we know, biodiversity involves 8 million plant and animal species, their ecosystems and the genetic diversity among them. We are losing the invaluable treasure at an alarming rate that, it has been estimated that, within the next 10 years, one out of every four known species may have been wiped off the planet. It has also been estimated that to meet the innumerable demands that humans make on nature each year, we may require about more than an additional half of Earth. That is about 1.6 earths to satisfy our greeds, Dr Warriar added. He also highlighted that three years before, in 2019, the world lost 38 lakh hectares of tropical primary forest. That is equivalent to losing a football ground area of forests every six seconds. Despite many efforts to halt deforestation, the loss of forests was too high for the last two decades. Nearly irreversible catastrophic damages to the environment have been caused. A study indicated that a mature tree cleans air by absorbing 22 kilos of carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen in exchange every year. Dr Warriar urged all to join hands with the invaluable forestry initiatives being implemented by the government, state forest departments, research institutions and tree growers for a better and cleaner environment.

Dr R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Coordinator Research inaugurated the programme and spoke in detail on the significance of Biodiversity. Dr Yasodha explained biodiversity conservation is the practice of protecting and preserving the wealth and variety of species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic diversity on the planet, which is important for our health, wealth, food, fuel, and other related livelihood services. Biodiversity plays an integral role in supporting many sectors of development. To meet climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals, transformative actions are critical in the area of sustainable production. Biodiversity conservation protects plant, animal, microbial and genetic resources for food production, agriculture, and ecosystem functions such as fertilizing the soil, recycling nutrients, regulating pests and disease, controlling erosion, and pollinating crops and trees. Sustainable Development Goals identify the conservation of biodiversity as one of the most potent levers to achieve sustainability, she added. Dr Yasodha highlighted that humans have come to dominate the planet, causing rapid ecosystem change and massive loss of biodiversity across the planet and emphasized that its individuals responsibility to conserve biodiversity.

An inter house Quiz programme on biodiversity in particular was organized for IFGTB staff members. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS conducted the quiz and created awareness among the participants and audience on various issues related to biodiversity. Prizes were awarded to the winners and certificate to the participants. As a part of this celebration, an online elocution competition on the theme “Building a shared future for all life” competition was conducted to peoples of all walks of life from 01.05.2022 to 18.05.2022. Among the participants, Baby Poojitha Terapalli, Amalapuram, Andhrapradesh, Shri Kapilraj V, Vedharanyam, Ms Sreya G, Ludhiana, Punjab won first, second and third prizes respectively. Ms Avneey Rawat, Noida, Ms Kajal Sah, West Bengal won the consolation prizes. Prizes were awarded to the winners and E-certificate to the all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the current year’s theme “Building a shared future for all life” was released during this occasion. Copies of the poster and handouts were distributed to the school children in and around Coimbatore. Softcopy of the awareness poster and handouts were shared electronically to various stakeholders. . Dr S. Vigneswaran proposed the vote of thanks. All the events were registered with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat.









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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Theme : Building a shared future for all life

Biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better. Nature has liberally painted a variety of landscapes in our country. Many of these have been demarcated as Biodiversity Hotspots - areas that have extremely rich and diverse flora and fauna and are under threat of getting endangered. Officially, four out of the 36 Biodiversity Hotspots in the world are present in India: the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the Indo-Burma region and the Sundaland. These biodiversity hotspots of India are home to innumerable unique and fragile species of flora and fauna.



Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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