



Report on International Mountain Day 2020



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 Mountain Day 2020 Awareness Campaign by IFGTB ENVIS

ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore organized an awareness campaign on the occasion of International Mountain Day on 11 December 2020.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB inaugurated the event and spoke on the role of mountains in providing water and other livelihood to people. Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator presented a musical tribute on the significance of mountain ranges in India based on slokas in Vedas. Meaning of these slokas in Sanskrit was also explained.

Following this, a tree sapling planting programme was organized in the Forest Campus. Saplings of *Ficus racemosa* (Athi), *Terminalia bellirica* (Thanni), *Ficus benghalensis* (Banayan), *Hardwickia binata* (Acha Maram), *Pongamia pinnata* (Pungam), *Tectona grandis* (Teak) and *Dalbergia latifolia* (Rosewood) were planted by employees and students of the Institute.

An online painting competition on the theme “Mountains and Biodiversity” was also conducted for students and the general public as part of the awareness campaign. Dr John Prasanth Jacob, Scientist G, functioned as the chief jury. Among the participants who took part in the competition from different parts of the world, Kum. Aisha Panda, Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Odisha, Master A. Sachin, Gems, Our Own High School, Dubai and Master Aayush Kumar Jha, DAV Public School, Chennai won the first, second and third prizes respectively. Special prize was awarded to Ms V. Nivedhitha, Junior Project Fellow, IFGTB. Prizes were awarded to the winners and e-Certificates to all the participants.

An awareness poster on ‘Mountain Biodiversity’, the current year’s theme identified by the United Nations was released and its digital copies were electronically disseminated to students, public and all stakeholders. Dr T. Vamadevan, Information Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks.













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International Mountain Day - 2020

Mountain Biodiversity



Mountain environments cover 27% of the world's land surface and encompass the most spectacular landscapes, a great diversity of species and habitat types, and distinctive human communities. Mountain biodiversity plays a key role in the support of global environmental, economic, social and cultural sectors. Lowland people also depend on mountain environments for a wide range of goods and services, including water, energy, timber, biodiversity maintenance, and opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal.

Facts about mountains

- Half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains.
- Mountains are home to one third of all plant species.
- A large portion of the world's most precious gene pools (for agriculture and medicine) are preserved in mountains.
- Mountains are home to thousands of varieties of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, seeds, nuts, animal breeds, fish, honey, insects and fungi.
- Crops that are important for food security have been diversified in mountains.
- An array of domestic animals (sheep, goats, yaks and alpacas) have originated in mountains.
- Medicinal plants are one of the most valuable resources from high altitudes.

What needs to be done?



Support Sustainable Practices



Create Awareness



Stop mining



Prevent poaching



Improve food security and livelihood of mountain people



Educate the next generation of mountain explorers



Promote sustainable tourism activities



Preserve mountain ecosystems and cultures