



Report

on

International Day for Biological Diversity 2024



**ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP
#PartOfThePlan**
International Day
for Biodiversity
2024

Organized by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement**
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore – 641 002

International Day for Biological Diversity 2024 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As part of Mission LiFE and in connection with International Day for Biological Diversity 2024, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFCRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized an awareness campaign to the frontline staff and Sanitary workers of Coimbatore Corporation on 22.05.2024 at Corporation Kalaiarangam, Coimbatore. The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness about the conservation of biodiversity and to highlight the crucial role that frontline staff play in preserving our natural ecosystems and environment. In addition, drawing competition was conducted to people from different walks of life. Both the events were registered in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat.

The campaign commenced with the recitation of Thamizh Thai Vazhthu. During her awareness lecture, Dr. Rekha R Warrier, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator elaborated on the current year's theme, "Be Part of the Plan." She explained Biological diversity resources are the foundation for life on Earth. They support the complex web of ecosystems that sustain not only the natural world but also human civilization. It contributes to the stability and resilience of ecosystems. Each species, no matter how small, has a role to play in maintaining ecological balance, she added. Dr Warrier emphasized that the loss of biodiversity poses a threat to all aspects of life, including human health. She highlighted the necessity of restoring lost biodiversity, noting that it has been proven that biodiversity loss can increase the spread of diseases. In summary, biodiversity is fundamental to the health of the planet and the well-being of all its inhabitants. Dr Warrier highlighted that protecting and conserving biodiversity ensures the sustainability of life-supporting systems and enhances the quality of life for future generations.

Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Coordinator, Research, emphasized that biodiversity is an indispensable foundation for all forms of life. She explained that biodiversity provides the essential resources and services that every living organism depends on for survival. This includes the genetic diversity necessary for species adaptation and resilience, the variety of ecosystems that supply clean air and water, and the multitude of species that support food webs and ecological balance. Dr. Yasodha highlighted that without biodiversity, the fundamental processes sustaining life on Earth would be severely compromised. She emphasized its critical role in maintaining the health and stability of our planet.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, the Director, ICFRE-IFGTB inaugurated the program and delivered an interactive lecture on the significance of biodiversity. He explained that biodiversity conservation involves protecting and preserving the diverse species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic variety on our planet. This practice is crucial for maintaining our health, wealth, food supply, fuel resources, and other essential livelihood services. Dr. Kunhikannan highlighted the integral role biodiversity plays in supporting various development sectors. He emphasized that achieving climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development goals requires transformative actions in sustainable production. Biodiversity conservation is vital for protecting plant, animal, microbial, and genetic resources essential for food production and agriculture. It also supports crucial ecosystem functions such as soil fertilization, nutrient recycling, pest and disease regulation, erosion control, and crop and tree pollination, Director added. He pointed out that the Sustainable Development Goals recognize biodiversity conservation as a powerful lever for achieving sustainability. Additionally, Dr. Kunhikannan introduced the Plant Diversity Database, stressing that human activities have led to rapid ecosystem changes and a significant loss of biodiversity globally. He emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility to restore lost biodiversity and urged individuals to plan for conserving biodiversity and nature.

Shri R. Ramachandran, Zonal Sanitary Officer highlighted the numerous benefits of increasing plant diversity in natural ecosystems, agroecosystems, and production forests. He indicated that greater plant diversity can partially or completely replace many costly agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, imported pollinators, and irrigation. He also emphasized the crucial role that sanitary workers play in preserving biodiversity. By maintaining cleanliness and proper waste management, sanitary workers help prevent pollution and environmental degradation, which are vital for protecting diverse ecosystems. Their efforts ensure that habitats remain healthy and sustainable, supporting a wide range of plant and animal species, he added.

As a part of the celebrations, drawing competition was conducted to people from different walks of life. E-Certificates were awarded to all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the significance of biodiversity 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, Senior Programme Officer proposed the vote of thanks. The campaign concluded with the National Anthem.











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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - 2024

Theme : Be part of the Plan

Biodiversity, the intricate web of life on Earth, is fundamental to the health and stability of our planet. Preserving biodiversity is not just a moral imperative but also essential for the well-being and survival of present and future generations. By integrating biodiversity conservation into our plan for sustainability, we can safeguard the rich tapestry of life on Earth while building resilient and thriving communities in harmony with nature. Together, let us commit to protecting biodiversity and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Causes of Biodiversity Loss



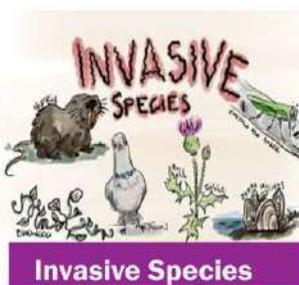
Pollution



Habitat Loss



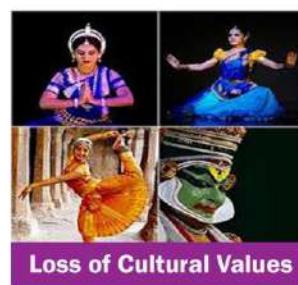
Overexploitation



Invasive Species



Climate Change



Loss of Cultural Values

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