



Report  
on  
**EK Ped Maa Ke Naam  
and Van Mahotsav 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**

## **EK Ped Maa Ke Naam and Van Mahotsav 2024 Celebrations**

As part of the EK Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign and Mission LiFE, and in connection with Van Mahotsav 2024, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore in collaboration with Extension Division organized an awareness event and tree sapling planting programme for the students of PPG College of Nursing, Coimbatore. By creating and spreading awareness about the importance of tree planting and the role of individuals in environmental protection, this event aimed to empower the students with the knowledge and motivation to make a positive impact on their surroundings by planting indigenous trees.

Smt R.G Anitha, Technical Officer, Extension Division welcomed the gathering. She expressed her gratitude for the attendees' presence and highlighted the significance of the event.

Following the welcome address, Dr. S. Vigneswaran, the Senior Programme Officer, EIACP elaborated on the importance of Van Mahotsav, a festival dedicated to tree planting and raising awareness about the benefits of trees and forests. He discussed how Van Mahotsav plays a crucial role in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable living. He also gave an insight to the initiative "EK Ped Maa Ke Naam" (A Tree for Mother). He explained that this initiative aims to honor and celebrate motherhood by encouraging people to plant a tree in the name of their mothers. This not only serves as a tribute to mothers but also contributes to increasing green cover, combating climate change, and preserving biodiversity. The initiative seeks to foster a sense of responsibility and connection to nature among individuals and communities, he added.

Director Dr C Kunhikannan, released an awareness poster fostering the benefits of EK Ped Maa Ke Naam. During his keynote address, Dr. Kunhikannan emphasized our responsibility to maintain trees, which he described as the most valuable gift given to humanity. The director elaborated on the crucial role that trees play in enhancing water resources. Trees contribute significantly to the water cycle by absorbing rainfall through their roots and releasing water vapor into the atmosphere through a process called transpiration. This not only helps in maintaining local humidity levels but also supports the formation of clouds and precipitation, thereby promoting a continuous water cycle. Moreover, trees act as natural water filters. Their root systems stabilize the soil, reducing erosion and allowing water to percolate into the ground, replenishing aquifers and maintaining groundwater levels, He added.

Dr Kunhikannan also shared his personal experience of how his small contribution of planting a single tree three decades ago has transformed into a thriving forest that now supports numerous livelihoods.

This singular act of planting a tree has grown over the years into a verdant expanse, providing a habitat for wildlife, improving the local climate, and offering resources for the community. He urged everyone to plant trees whenever possible and to actively participate in efforts to save the environment.

Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Coordinator Research, during her inaugural address elaborated on the numerous benefits of indigenous trees and explained the intricate ways in which all living organisms depend on them. Dr. Yasodha emphasized that indigenous trees, being native to the region, are well-adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, making them resilient and sustainable choices for planting. These trees play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and providing habitat and food for a wide range of wildlife, including birds, insects, mammals, and microorganisms. She highlighted that direct interaction with nature can foster a deeper understanding of ecological processes and the crucial role trees play in maintaining environmental balance. By spending time in forests, students can observe first-hand how trees contribute to the water cycle, support biodiversity, and improve air quality. This immersive experience can enhance their knowledge of ecological systems, promote environmental stewardship, and inspire a commitment to conservation efforts, She added.

Ms Fathimathu Zuhra during the feedback session shared how the event had deepened the students awareness of the interconnectedness between humans and nature, and how they felt more empowered to take actionable steps toward preserving the environment. She also shared personal anecdotes about her own experiences with tree planting and conservation efforts, adding a personal touch to the feedback session.

Saplings of *Terminalia bellirica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Albizia amara*, *Majidea zanguebarica*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Ficus benghalensis*, and *Mitragyna parvifolia* were planted in the premise of the Gass Forest Museum by the Director, Group Coordinator Research, staff and students of PPG Nursing College, Coimbatore.

Dr. S. Vigneswaran delivered an insightful lecture on Mission LiFE. During the session, awareness materials and handouts detailing the benefits of Mission LiFE were distributed to the students. Additionally, the students collectively took the Mission LiFE Pledge, affirming their commitment to the initiative.





















# EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

ICFRE-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 2024

## 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Van Mahotsav is celebrated during the first week of July every year in India. Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1950, this festival emphasizes the importance of trees and forests in maintaining ecological balance and integrity. It encourages government officials, non-profit organizations, and volunteers to participate in tree-planting activities. The goals of Van Mahotsav include promoting environmental protection and raising awareness about the crucial role of trees and forests in combating climate change. Over the years, it has become a significant annual event in India, contributing notably to the country's increasing green cover.

### Fact

1 TON LESS PAPER  
**SAVES**



### Benefits of Van Mahotsav

- Increases green cover
- Protects from desertification
- Normalize Rainfall
- Controls pollution level
- Mitigates the drought and Global Warming
- Increases the value of society & environment
- Controls natural disasters
- Increases livelihoods
- Provides habitat to wildlife
- Increases cultural values

Its our responsibility to take part in "EK Ped Maa Ke Naam - A Tree in the Name of Mother" to conserve the Mother Earth

POSTER RELEASED BY ICFRE IN JULY 2024

#VanMahotsav2024

#EkPedMaaKeNaam