



LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Report

on

International Day for Biological Diversity



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 2023

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) and Mission LiFE, 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 commemorated the International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 by organizing a Tree Sapling Planting Programme. The main aim of this event was to create and spread awareness about the importance of tree planting and the significance of biodiversity and its role in sustainable development and human well-being.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator during his awareness lecture, elaborated about the current year's theme "From agreement to action: Build back biodiversity". Dr Warriar explained that the biological diversity resources are the pillars upon which we build civilizations. Fish provide 20 per cent of animal protein to about 3 billion people. Over 80 per cent of the human diet is provided by plants. As many as 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines for basic healthcare. But loss of biodiversity threatens all, including our health, he added. While explaining the need for building back the lost biodiversity, Dr Warriar highlighted that it has been proven that biodiversity loss could expand zoonoses - diseases transmitted from animals to humans- while, on the other hand, if we keep biodiversity intact, it offers excellent tools to fight against pandemics like those caused by coronaviruses.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director inaugurated the programme and spoke in detail on the significance of Biodiversity. He 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, he added. Dr Kunhikannan also gave an insight to Plant Diversity Database and highlighted that humans have come to dominate the planet, causing rapid ecosystem change and massive loss of biodiversity across the planet. He emphasized that its individuals responsibility to build back the lost biodiversity and plant more trees to conserve biodiversity.

Dr Jaisekar, Assistant Director, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Tirunelveli stated that research revealed many potential benefits of increasing plant diversity in natural ecosystems, as well as in agroecosystems and production forests. Plant diversity potentially provides a partial to complete substitute for many costly agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, imported pollinators and irrigation. Diversification strategies include enhancing crop genetic diversity, mixed plantings, rotating crops, agroforestry and diversifying landscapes surrounding croplands, he added.

Saplings of indigenous tree species like *Ficus racimosa*, *Annona muricata*, *Mitragyna parvifolia*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Phyllanthus acidus*, *Garcinia gummi-gutta*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Limonia trifolia*, *Manilkara zapota*, *Mimusops elengi* etc. were planted in the Botanical Garden by officers, staff members

An awareness poster highlighting the current year's theme "From agreement to action: Build back 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. All the events were registered with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat.











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

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - 2023
Theme : From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity

This year's International Day for Biodiversity is a strong call for all of us to walk the talk when it comes to protecting our biodiversity areas. Its theme, "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity," holds meaning as it prompts to rejuvenate our passion, commitment and hope for the future generation with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP 15. While there have been significant biodiversity-related interventions when the 2030 Agenda was launched. The development partners have publicly committed their resources for nature and climate, we still have quite a long way to go. At the brink of what is considered a Planetary Emergency, the cost of inaction in the face of a deteriorating planet is severe. The world is on track to breach a critical warming threshold in the next five years. Let's build back the biodiversity together.

22

ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY BY EVERY PERSON AROUND THE GLOBE

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Be a green commuter 2 Go paperless 3 Ditch disposable, choose reusable 4 Reduce food waste 5 Shop for sustainably sourced palm oil products 6 Wash on full loads 7 Learn to refuse 8 Source sustainable produce 9 Travel sustainably 10 Use less water 11 Reconnect with nature 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Reuse and upcycle 13 Spread the word 14 Take action against plastic pollution 15 Don't litter 16 Conserve energy 17 Stay informed 18 Volunteer with a charity 19 Recycle whenever possible 20 Embrace minimalism 21 Restore nature & biodiversity 22 Celebrate Biodiversity Day! 	
---	---	--

22 MAY

From Agreement to Action:
Build Back Biodiversity

POSTER NO. 02/ICFRE-ENVIS-MAY 2023

#Choose LiFE

#Mission LiFE

#Meri LiFE