



LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Report on Van Mahotsav



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**

Van Mahotsav 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

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 celebrated Van Mahotsav 2023 by organizing a Tree Sapling Planting Programme on 06.07.2023. By creating and spreading awareness about the importance of tree planting and the role of individuals in environmental protection, this event aimed to empower people with the knowledge and motivation to make a positive impact on their surroundings by planting indigenous trees.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator during his introductory remarks explained that deforestation has caused the loss of 16% of India's forest coverage over the last decade according to Global Forest Watch. Van Mahotsav, the Festival of Trees, started in 1950 by the then Union Minister of Agriculture and Food, Shri KM Munshi where tens of thousands of tree saplings are planted during the first week of July every year is aimed at reforesting the denuded landscapes. It also aims at bringing the forest and tree cover to 33% of the geographical area of the country. By planting more trees, it will contribute to global reforestation efforts, restoring lost forests, repairing damaged ecosystems and mitigating climate changes, he added

Director Dr C Kunhikannan, inaugurated the function and released an awareness poster. During his Special address, Dr Kunhikannan emphasised that it is our responsibility to maintain trees, which are the most valuable gift given to humanity. For many species of wildlife, including birds, insects, bats, and squirrels, trees provide a canopy and a habitat. But they don't just act as a home for wildlife; the fruits from trees provide food for them too, he added. Director emphasized that humans are dependent on trees for their needs; Van Mahotsav should be utilized in a creative way. The need of the hour is that all the destruction caused by humans can only be balanced by planting more number of trees. He urged all to plant more trees whenever possible and save the environment.

Saplings of *Terminalia bellirica*, *Ficus racemosa*, *Mimusops elengi*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Sapindus emarginatus*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Madhuca longifolia* and *Mitragyna parvifolia* were planted in the Botanical Garden by officers, staff members and students of Arts and Science Colleges, Coimbatore.

As part of the celebrations, drawing competition on the theme "Significance of planting Indigenous tree species" were conducted in which people from different walks of life participated. Certificates were awarded to the participants. Copies of the poster and handouts of the awareness poster 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.











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 2023

1st - 7th July 2023

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting festival celebrated in the month of July in which thousands of trees are planted all over the country. Van Mahotsav week is celebrated from 1 July to 7 July to spread awareness of forest conservation and to save the environment. Trees and forests play a very crucial role in maintaining an ecological balance and providing oxygen to human beings on the planet. The Van Mahotsav week is a reminder that we must protect forests and stop deforestation and practice the 3R rule- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

How Do Trees Benefit People?

Beyond adding beauty to our communities, trees provide real health and safety benefits to people living in cities and towns every day.



Ensuring equitable distribution of trees in urban areas is a crucial step towards fostering native ecosystems. By promoting afforestation and prioritizing the planting of indigenous tree saplings, we can unlock a range of advantages for our cities and towns.

POSTER NO. 05/ICFRE ENVIS-JULY 2023

MISSIONLIFE

CHOOSELIFE

MERILIFE