

Celebrations of Earth Day 2016: A Report

(22.04.2016)

The **Earth Day** was celebrated by the institute at **Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA)** in the forenoon, where the children from different Government schools of Shimla were invited. This was rather a collaborative action of the institute with **World Wide Fund (WWF)**, Shimla. In the evening, a separate meeting on the academic front was also organised in the **Conference Hall of the institute** to discuss the need of celebration of this important day.

WHTA was established by HFRI with the financial support from Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department, Shimla. The major objective behind this establishment was to create public awareness about the environment and conservation of our biodiversity.

As per one of the mandate, the celebration of the **46th edition of Earth Day** was organised by Himalayan Forest Research Institute at its upcoming Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum at Potter Hill, near Shimla on **World Earth Day (22nd April, 2016)** in collaboration with the WWF (Shimla Office). Participants included 100 children from 10 different government schools of Shimla (GSSS Lal Pani, Tutu, Ghanati, Boeleuganj, Summer Hill, Tutikandi, Phagli, Krishna Nagar, Khalini and Taradevi, besides their teaching staff and Scientists from this Institute. During the programme, the participants were made aware of the importance of the **Earth Day** by expressing the concerns about the catastrophic happening on our land, on rivers, lakes and in the air too. The children were also made aware of the importance of trees in view of the theme **“Trees for the Environment: Lets get planting”** of this year Earth Day by highlighting the importance of trees. A pledge was also taken to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment by focusing upon and highlighting environmental related issues with an objective to build a future where people would live in harmony with its limited natural resources.

The programme was coordinated by **Dr. Vaneet Jishtu**, Scientist -in-charge WHTA. The Director, HFRI **Dr. V.P. Tewari** graced the occasion and took keen interest on the proceedings of the programme. **Ms Arti Gupta**, Akshi and Sunita from the local office of the WWF also helped the institute in the smooth conduct of this programme.

On the spot painting and Slogan writing competitions were organised with special focus on this year's theme.

Sh. Srinivas Joshi, eminent citizen of the town, who often writes about Shimla in his column in the **Tribune** as **‘Vignettes by Srinivas Joshi’**, interacted with the children on the degrading environment of the town and also on the history of ‘Earth Day’ and its importance

in the present context, for a better environment ahead. **Dr. Tewari**, Director of the institute also spoke on the occasion and apprised the target group by touching the importance of Earth Day through multifaceted approach. Thereafter, there was an interactive session with scientists of the institute and **Ms. Arti Gupta** from WWF. Afterwards, the children alongwith their faculties were taken around the arboretum, where, intent of establishment of WHTA and importance of native species of the region was explained.

In the end of the programme, prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions.

In the evening, a meeting was organized **at 4.00 PM in Conference Hall** of the institute, where, importance of celebrations of the **Earth Day** was discussed across. The main intent behind this meeting was to put outcome of the concerted efforts of various stakeholders in a virtual cinch and to further put the environmental issues into the lime light with an ultimate objective to encourage people to be more and more environment friendly. Thereafter, **Dr. Ranjeet Singh**, Scientist-F and Coordinator of this event invited **Dr. V.P. Tewari**, Director, HFRI for a presentation on **“Impact of Globalization on Environment: Climate Change and Carbon Offset Potential”**. The whole proceedings were Chaired by the Director of the institute. All Head of various research Divisions, scientists, officers and all other officials were present in the conference hall during the celebrations.

In the end, **Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Group Coordinator Research** presented a **Vote of Thanks**. In his concluded remarks, he termed the population and pollution as the two monsters, those are required to fought with for making this **Mother Earth** a place worth living for the generations to come.

Earth Day Celebrations with School Children



Glimpses of Earth Day Celebrations at HFRI Campus

