



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, 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 organized an awareness event and tree sapling planting programme on 05.07.2024 for the students at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, RS Puram, Coimbatore. The main focus of the planting program was to raise awareness about the National initiative EK Ped Maa Ke Naam among students and encourage them to conserve nature by motivating them to plant indigenous trees.

Mrs A. Therasa, Eco-club coordinator welcomed the gathering and briefed about the importance of the programme.

Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Coordinator Research, inaugurated the awareness event and spoke about the Van Mahotsav, the tree planting festival. Dr Yasodha highlighted the numerous benefits of indigenous trees. She explained the intricate ways in which all living organisms depend on these trees, emphasizing that being native to the region, indigenous trees are well-adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, making them resilient and sustainable choices for planting. Dr. Yasodha highlighted that 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 stressed that direct interaction with nature can foster a deeper understanding of ecological processes and the critical 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.

Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer, EIACP in his introductory remarks, explained the importance of Van Mahotsav, a festival dedicated to tree planting and raising awareness about the benefits of trees and forests. She discussed how Van Mahotsav plays a crucial role in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable living. Dr. Vigneswaran also provided insight into 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.

Head Master Mr. J. Johnfathima Raj, in his concluding speech, urged the students to actively participate in planting indigenous trees whenever possible. He expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries and the institute for planting saplings in the school premises.

As part of the celebrations, Tree Challenge – Plant a Tree Sapling Contest was conducted for people of different walks. Diverse group of participants from various parts of the country were participated. Certificate was awarded to all the participants.

Saplings of *Terminalia bellirica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Albizia amara*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Ficus benghalensis*, and *Mitragyna parvifolia* were planted in the school premise by the dignitaries and the students.

Dr Rekha R Warriar, Scientist G and EIACP Coordinator interacted with the school students during planting and explained the need for planting and protecting the trees for future posterity.











