



**Report**

**on**

# **International Day of Forests 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**

## **International Day of Forests 2024 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP**

As part of the International Day of Forests 2024 and LiFE Mission, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) Resource Partner at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized a Mega Walkathon – An Awareness Walk Rally. The primary objective of this rally was to raise awareness about the importance of forests and encourage individuals to engage in LiFE Mission initiatives.

The event began with Prakruthi Vandanam, an invocation on nature in Sanskrit based on Yajur Veda composed by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist G and EIACP Coordinator. During his awareness lecture, Dr Warriar explained that forests contribute to the food security and sustainable livelihoods of billions of people. Forest sector value chains also offer over 86 million green jobs and support the livelihoods of many more. Over 2.4 billion people use wood-based energy for cooking. We know that more than 10 million different species of animals, plants, fungi and other micro-organisms inhabit the Earth. They and the habitats in which they live represent the world's biological diversity. It has been recorded that humans use at least 40,000 species of plants and animals on a daily basis for food, shelter, clothing and medicinal needs. Forests are the most diverse ecosystems on land, because they hold the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. And some rain forests are among the oldest ecosystems on Earth, he added. Dr Warriar highlighted that forest biodiversity is threatened by deforestation, forest fragmentation and degradation, hunting and the arrival of invasive species from other habitats. We are losing 12 million hectares of forest a year, much of it tropical rainforest with its unique and rich biodiversity. Innovation and technology have revolutionized forest monitoring, enabling countries to track and report on their forests more effectively. A total of 13.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide forest emission reductions or enhancements have been reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through transparent and innovative forest monitoring.

Dr R. Yasodha, Group Coordinator Research, during her special address explained the importance of commemorating the International Day of Forests and gave an insight to the some of the ground breaking innovations within the forestry sector. Dr Yasodha emphasized the critical role of tree planting in bolstering global reforestation endeavours, which are essential for replenishing depleted forests, rehabilitating damaged ecosystems, and combating climate change. She provided insightful statistics regarding the current forest cover in the country, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities in forest conservation and management. Furthermore, Dr Yasodha appealed to students to actively engage in innovative initiatives aimed at building a sustainable future. She also highlighted that with the increasing emphasis on sustainable resource management and

environmental conservation, there is a growing demand for skilled professionals in forestry-related fields. From forest management and conservation to research and innovation, the scope for students to make meaningful contributions is vast.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, the Director highlighted the multifaceted benefits bestowed by forests, stressing their pivotal role in sustaining life on Earth. While highlighting current year's theme, "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World," Dr Kunhikannan emphasized the paramount importance of trees as humanity's invaluable heritage, stressing our collective responsibility to safeguard them. Dr Kunhikannan explained how trees serve as vital habitats for a plethora of wildlife, ranging from birds and insects to bats and squirrels. He highlighted that beyond providing shelter, trees also serve as a crucial food source for these creatures through their fruits. Moreover, Dr Kunhikannan emphasized the intricate interdependence between humans and trees, emphasizing our reliance on them for various necessities. In light of the pressing environmental challenges exacerbated by human activities, Dr Kunhikannan highlighted the urgent need for reforestation efforts. He passionately urged all participants to take proactive measures by planting more trees whenever feasible, emphasizing that such actions are imperative to restore ecological balance and safeguard our planet's future.

An awareness poster highlighting the significance of forests was released during the occasion and shared with all the stakeholders. Mega Walkathon – An Awareness Walk Rally was officially flagged off by the Director. Students and staff from Government Arts College, Coimbatore, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, PSG Arts and Science College, Coimbatore and IFGTB staff actively participated in the awareness rally displaying awareness signboards along the designated route. About 600 participants took part in the awareness rally. The rally commenced from the IFGTB campus, traversing through significant parts of the city, ensuring a broader outreach to the audience. Awareness handouts were disseminated to school children and the general public. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, EIACP PC RP proposed vote of thanks.

















**EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement**  
**ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS-2024

**Theme: Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World**

Innovations in forestry encompass a wide range of technologies, practices, and policies aimed at enhancing forest conservation, restoration, and utilization. This year's theme "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World" seeks to harness the potential of technology and creativity to promote forest conservation, restore degraded ecosystems, and ensure the equitable distribution of forest benefits. By fostering innovation in forestry, we can not only protect one of our most valuable natural resources but also contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

**Forests...**

- ... protect you against natural hazards like avalanches, flooding or rock-falls
- ... support people's livelihoods, by providing employment and income
- ... help provide your water, by regulating quantity and quality of supply
- ... help to mitigate our changing climate, by storing carbon in forests and in wood-based products
- ... moderate your local climate, helping regulate wind, humidity and temperature
- ... keep you healthy with natural medicinal products and space for mental well-being
- ... provide shelter for wildlife and biodiversity, by offering favourable habitats and microclimates
- ... nourish your body with berries, mushrooms, fruits and nuts, honey and game meat
- ... allow you to build and furnish your home with wood, cork and wood-based products
- ... feed your soul, offering spiritual inspiration in a haven of nature
- ... heat your house and power your car via biofuels and bioenergy
- ... bring good cheer with products like resins, tanins, decorative materials, Christmas trees
- ... offer sustainable alternatives to non-renewable, fossil-based materials used in construction, textiles, packaging and other products, originating from wood and cork
- ... offer an inspirational setting for leisure, recreation, adventure and hunting
- ... are beautiful, an existential part of the landscape where you can connect with nature, experience wildlife and find peace

**Benefits of Forests**

**# Conserve Forests for Human Wellbeing**

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