



**INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
R. S. Puram P.O., Coimbatore-641002**

**REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY (IBD) – 2013**

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) was celebrated in the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, on 22nd May 2013. The programme was attended by a total of about 170 participants, including the Scientists, Officers, Staff and Research Scholars of IFGTB; dignitaries from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Amrita University, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and students from various schools and colleges in Coimbatore.

The programme was started with a ceremonial planting by the **Chief Guest, Dr. E.J. James, Director, Water Institute – A Centre of Excellence, Karunya University, Coimbatore and officiating Vice Chancellor of the University**. The meeting was conducted in the Seminar Hall of the institute and it commenced with invocation by Dr. Kannan C. S. Warriar, Scientist of IFGTB. Shri K. Ravichandran, Head, Forest Economics and Extension Division welcomed the gathering. Shri R. S. Prashanth, Head, Forestry, Land Use and Climate Change Division and Director-in-charge, during his talk highlighted that, the theme of International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) – 2013 is “Water and Biodiversity”. He underscored the importance of water in sustaining biodiversity and the need for the maintenance of ecosystem health. Dr. K.R.Sasidharan, Scientist gave an introduction about the Chief Guest of the function, Dr. E.J. James. The Chief Guest inaugurated the meeting by lighting the traditional lamp. He also inaugurated the “Nature Club of Forest Campus” and distributed the Sparrow Nest boxes, to the members of the Nature Club.

Dr. E.J. James, the Chief Guest delivered a Special Lecture, on the topic, “**Relevance of River Basin Approach for Wise Use of Wetland Ecosystems**”. He mentioned that, water is the important factor for maintaining the biodiversity of wetlands. He emphasized the need for giving first priority to biodiversity conservation in wetlands, as this ecosystem is highly fragile. He highlighted that, biodiversity is directly linked to rainfall and availability of water in humid tropics, citing example of Silent Valley National Park in the Western Ghats. He pointed out that, the biodiversity of coastal wetlands, agriculture and fisheries depend on proper management of river basins and maintenance of optimum inflow of fresh water in to the system. He substantiated the facts, based on the case studies made in Indus Delta, Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, Chilika Wetland, Loktak Wetland, Vembanad Kol Wetland System of Kerala and Point Calimere Wetland at the mouth of Cauvery River Basin in Tamil Nadu. He suggested a series of approaches and actions in order to most appropriately integrate wetlands in to river basin management and explained pathways for sustainable development of the ecosystem.

The Chief Guest gave away the prizes to the winners of various competitions in Painting, Esay and Qiz, conducted for school and college students on 5th and 6th April 2013, in connection with IBD-2013. The programme was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Head, Biodiversity Division and Organizing Secretary, IBD-2013.



Ceremonial planting by the chief Guest, Dr. E.J.James



Tree planting by Members of Nature Club members



Chief Guest Dr. E.J.James and others on the dais



Dr. E.J.James inaugurating the celebration



Dr. E.J.James inaugurating the nature club of the Forest Campus by distributing Sparrow Nest boxes



Dr. E.J.James delivering the special lecture



Dr. E.J. James delivering the special lecture



Prize distribution to the winners of competitions by the chief guest Dr. E.J. James



Prize distribution to the winners of competitions by the chief guest Dr. E.J. James



View of Painting competition on 5th April 2013



View of Essay competition on 5th April 2013



View of Quiz competition on 6th April 2013