



**ENVIS Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore**

**Awareness Programme on the
International Mountain Day 2019 by IFGTB ENVIS**

ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore organized an event on December 11th, the International Mountain Day 2019 as per the guidelines of the FAO of the United Nations. The theme for the current year is **“Mountains Matter for Youth”**. The primary objective of the programme was to create awareness among the young people, who are active agents of change and the future leaders of tomorrow. They are the custodians of mountains and of their natural resources, which are being threatened by climate change, according to the UN.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator gave an insight on the significance of mountains to the youth mainly from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. One-tenth of the human population derives their support of living through mountains. He also explained the importance of Western Ghats which is one of the eight hottest hotspots of biological diversity in the world along with Srilanka. Older than the Himalayas, the Western Ghats is the home to at least 325 globally threatened flora and fauna. Thirty-nine World Heritage Sites in the Western Ghats declared by the UNESCO were also detailed. The participants were given a field exposure to the Western Ghats region in Coimbatore district in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Shri M.R. Arokiyasamy, Range Forest Officer and Dr T. Vamadevan, Information Officer explained the floristic diversity of the forests. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer organized the field visit. The participants interacted with the tribes to understand the tribal traditions in conserving the forest genetic resources of the mountains.





