

## **NOTE ON INAUGURATION OF ‘FOREST CAMPUS NATURE CLUB’**

In order to expose young children residing within the Forest Campus, Coimbatore to nature and to broaden their understanding on issues related to nature and environment, a nature club was inaugurated on 22/05/2013 as part of the “International Day for Biological Diversity 2013” celebrations. The nature club named as ‘Forest Campus Nature Club’ with Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore as its patron and HoD, Biodiversity, IFGTB as its chief adviser is open to the children of the staff of Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Tamil nadu Forest Academy (TNFA) and Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS) located within Forest Campus, Coimbatore. Presently 23 children have enrolled as members of the club. At least one field based activity per month is proposed to be undertaken, under the banner of the nature club, to provide an opportunity to the children to be exposed to different facets of nature as well as to provide a forum to the children to interact with experts from diverse fields related to nature.

Diverse range of club activities ranging from augmenting efforts to increase population of sparrows within forest campus to carrying out tree planting to improve diversity within forest campus to visits to wildlife sanctuaries have been suggested by club members during two meetings held as a prelude to the inauguration of nature club. Accordingly, members of the nature club had participated in the ceremonial tree planting conducted as part of the International Day for Biological Diversity celebrations and had planted saplings in the botanical garden along with other dignitaries on 22/05/2013. Planting of more saplings, as per their choice around the residential areas, is proposed with the active participation of the club members during the first week of June, with the onset of monsoon rains.

The nature club members had felt that there is an urgent need to augment facilities for nesting sites for the sparrows in order to improve their population within the forest campus, Coimbatore. Hence sparrow nest boxes have been fabricated for distribution to the club members to be placed in their residences and to be taken care by the members. As a symbol of the formal inauguration of the

Forest Club Nature Club activities, Dr. E. J. James, Officiating Vice Chancellor, Karunya University, Coimbatore and Chief Guest of “International Day for Biological Diversity 2013” celebrations at IFGTB handed over the sparrow nest boxes to the club members.



Members of the Forest Campus Nature Club planting trees in the Botanical Garden as part of International Day for Biological Diversity – 2013 celebrations.



Members of the Forest Campus Nature Club with the tree sapling planted to inaugurate their club activities during International Day for Biological Diversity – 2013 celebrations on 22/05/2013.





Members of the Forest Campus Nature Club along with other dignitaries of International Day for Biological Diversity – 2013 celebrations.



Members of Forest Campus Nature Club receiving the Sparrow Nest Box as an symbolic inauguration of their club activities from Dr. E.J. James, Chief Guest of International day for Biological diversity celebrations at IFGTB, Coimbatore.