



Observance of World Environment Day 2020

Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore

5th June is celebrated every year as World Environment Day (WED). WED is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. WED 2020 calls for urgent action to protect biodiversity. In line with UN declaration; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change observed the World Environment Day, 2020 on the theme “Biodiversity”, the programme was attended online by members of IFGTB. The theme tag line for World Environment Day 2020 is, '*Time for Nature*,' with a focus on its role in providing the essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development. WED also urges us to rethink how our economic systems have evolved and the impact they have on the environment. These are issues the world cannot lose sight of even as we tackle the corona virus pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis. The emergence of COVID-19 has underscored the fact that, when we destroy biodiversity, we destroy the system that supports human life. By upsetting the delicate balance of nature, we have created ideal conditions for pathogens—including corona viruses—to spread.

On the observance of WED celebrations on 5th June 2020, IFGTB in collaboration with *Pasumai Vikatan (Tamil fortnightly)* hosted the first lecture in the series of online interactive lectures on “*Tree Cultivation for increasing Farm income*”. The first in the series was on “*High yielding Casuarina clones*” presented by Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist.

Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Director IFGTB interacted with the farmers on the importance of the online series and new extension strategy IFGTB would be implementing during the COVID situation. The online series is designed as Friday feature for the month of June 2020 covering the important themes namely commercially important Clonal varieties of IFGTB, package of practices, Agroforestry models and Integrated Pests and Disease Management will be highlighted in the lecture series.

Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Head Extension shared during his interaction with the farmers on the significance of technology based extension strategy in the prevailing situation. He also expressed that **online series initiative is a part of ICFRE – National Forestry Research Project – “Developing and Popularizing Digital Interactive platform for Tree Growers and other stakeholders of Tamil Nadu”**. There was overwhelming response from the farmers for this initiative and nearly 900 registrations were received. However 490 farmers and other stakeholders attended the online sessions in various social media platforms and interacted with experts. The lecture was streamed online through Face book live and recorded version was also shared in the social media groups. The programme link can be accessed in (<https://www.facebook.com/PasumaiVikatan/videos/194482061741564>).

An exclusive question & answer session was arranged to clarify the queries of the farmers. Shri. Pon. Senthil Kumar, Executive Editor, *Pasumai Vikatan* was the moderator of the online session. He elaborated the topic to be covered in the forthcoming sessions to the farmers and requested for the active participation. The schedule of the rest of the lecture series is as below;

Date	Thematic topic for presentation	Presenter
12.06.2020	Agro forestry Models & Casuarina Windbreak Clones	Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran
19.06.2020	Cultivation practices in <i>Gmelina arborea</i> (Kumil)	Shri. A. Mayavel
26.06.2020	Cultivation practices in Cadamba	Dr. A. Vijayaraghavan

Besides the above online series for the farmers, IFGTB also organised “**Online Knowledge Series – Know your Environment**” commensurate with the theme of WED 2020, for school and college students under the “**Prakriti – Student Connect Programme**” of **Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)**. The topics covered include the following;

1. ***Facts about unknown locusts – Solutions from Nature***
2. ***Know your backyard Biodiversity***
3. ***Not all microbes are Harmful !!!***

Dr. N. Senthilkumar, Scientist, IFGTB delivered the lecture on “***Facts about unknown locusts – Solutions from Nature***”. He highlighted the difference between grasshoppers & Locusts, their eating habits, their varieties and the controlling operation of Locusts. **43 students of class XII from G.D. Matriculation & Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore participated the Online Knowledge series.**

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist, IFGTB delivered the lecture on “***Know your backyard Biodiversity***” to 58 school students of ***PSBB Millennium School, Somayampalayam, Coimbatore of class IX***. He explained the concept of Biodiversity, Genetic diversity, Ecosystem diversity, Species Diversity, Importance of Soil & Fungi, Medicinal plants. He briefly explained about

the Ecosystem functioning & the concept of Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. On the occasion, a *short film on energy conservation titled “Tejo Maya - on energy” produced by Energy ambassadors from the ‘Energy Club’ of PSBB Millennium School, Somayampalayam, Coimbatore was released by IFGTB.*

Dr. A. Karthikeyan Scientist, IFGTB presented the topic on “*Not all Microbes are Harmful!*” and interacted with students. He explained about the microorganisms and its role, its types and the biofungicide *Trichoderma viridea* and its importance.

Selected videos from curated list WED 2020 website of MoEF&CC was presented to the students for dissemination of ideas and thoughts on the relevant themes. Together **383 students both School and college participated in the online sessions.**

Director, IFGTB interacted with the College students of Nirmala College for Women and released *e-calendar 2020-21 of Short Term Training Courses offered by IFGTB for farmers, forest personnel, department officials and students of schools & colleges.*

DIRECTOR
IFGTB

	
<p>Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Director, IFGTB during his inaugural speech</p>	<p>Dr. A. Nicodemus, Scientist & Head, GTI, IFGTB during his online talk to Pasumai Vikatan viewers</p>



“Online Knowledge Series - Know your Environment” session welcome speech by Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Head, Extension



Dr. Kunhikannan, Scientist, IFGTB during his class

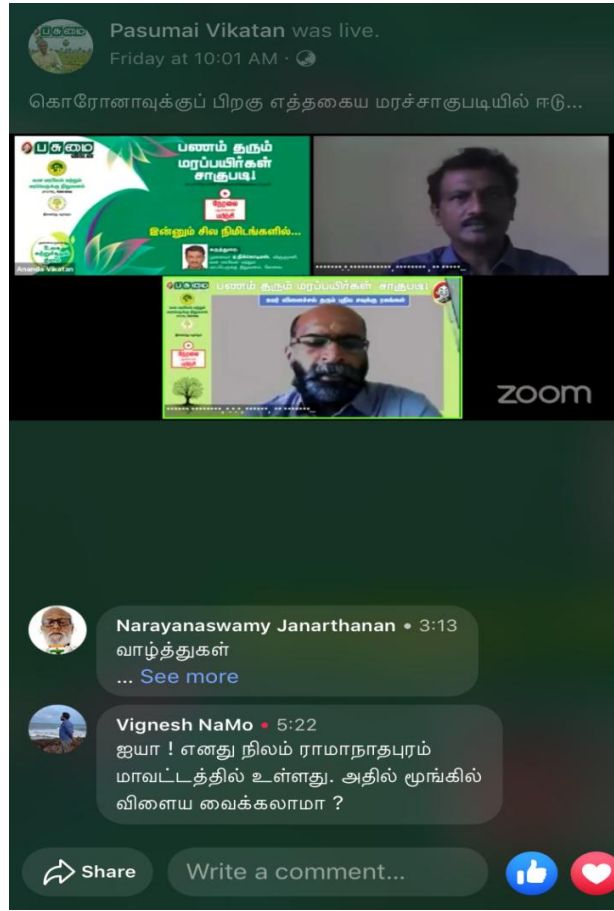
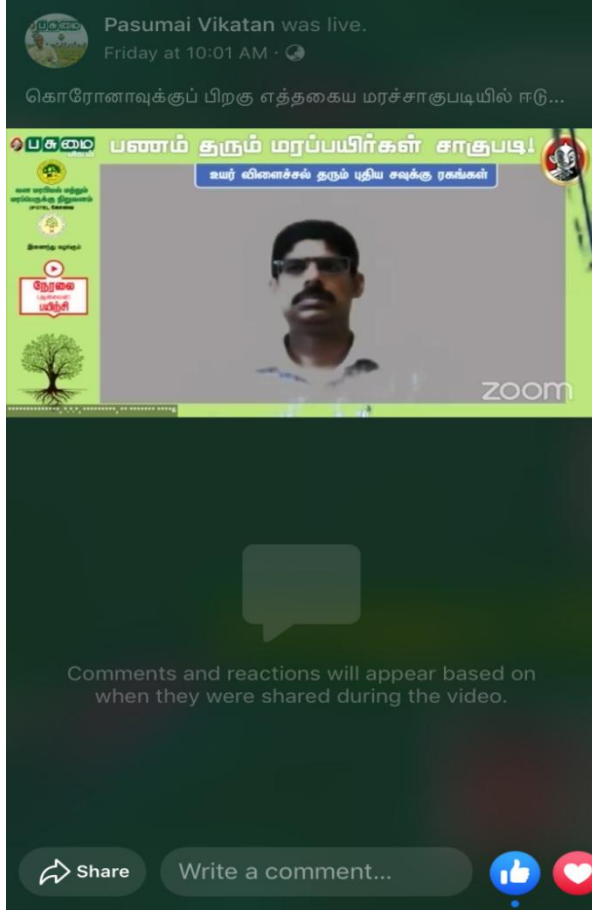


Dr. N. Senthil Kumar, Scientist, IFGTB during his lecture on “Facts about unknown locusts - Solutions from Nature”



Valedictory speech by Director, IFGTB &— lecture by Dr. Karthikeyan, Scientist on “Not all microbes are Harmful”

Online Webinar interaction



PRESS NEWS ON WED 2020

THE HINDU, 06.06.2020

Online programme
COIMBATORE
To mark World Environment Day, Environmental Information System Centre on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) organised an online awareness programme on Friday. IFGTB Director S. Senthilkumar participated.

வன மரபியல் நிறுவனத்தில் உலக சுற்றுச்சூழல் தின விழா

கோவை, ஜூன் 6-

இந்திய வன மரபியல் மற்றும் மரப்பெருக்கு நிறுவன வளாகத்தில், உலக சுற்றுச்சூழல் தின விழா நடந்தது.

முதுநிலை முதன்மை விஞ்ஞானி டாக்டர் கண்ணன் வாரியர் வரவேற்றார். விழாவில், வன மரபியல் நிறுவன இயக்குனர் செந்தில் குமார் பேசியதாவது:

இயற்கை தன்னை தானே புதுப்பித்துக் கொள்ளும் திறன் கொண்டது. மனிதர்களுக்கும், பிற உயிர்களுக்கும் தேவையான அனைத்தையும் இயற்கை அளிக்கிறது. ஆனால், நகரமயமாதல், தொழில் மயமாதல், நவீன வேளாண் முறைகளால், இயற்கைக்கும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புக்கும் பெரும் சிக்கல்கள் எழுந்துள்ளன. எனவே, இயற்கை வளங்களை பாதுகாக்கவும், சுற்றுச்சூழலில் பல்லுயிர் தன்மையை பாதுகாக்கவும் அனைவரும் ஒன்றிணைந்து செயல்பட வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு, செந்தில்குமார் பேசினார்.

'சுற்றுச்சூழலில் ஊரடங்கின் தாக்கம்' என்ற தலைப்பில், நடத்தப்பட்ட புகைப்பட போட்டி முடிவுகளை, தலைமை விஞ்ஞானி டாக்டர் ஜான் பிரசாந்த் ஜேக்கப் வெளியிட்டார்.

நாட்டின் பல்வேறு பகுதிகளில் இருந்து 386 பேர், 'பேஸ்புக் லைவ்' மூலம் நேரலையில் இந்த விழாவில் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Scan QR code to attend online lectures on tree cultivation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has launched a series of online interactive lectures for farmers on tree cultivation.

The lecture series was inaugurated on Friday to mark the World Environment Day. The first lecture, on high-yielding casuarina clones, was presented by scientist A Nicodemus.

The lectures will be hosted every Friday in June covering themes such as commercially important clonal varieties of IFGTB, agroforestry and integrated pest and disease management.

The lectures scheduled

including one on 'Agroforestry Models and Casuarina Windbreak Clones' by C Buvaneshwaran on June 12, 'Cultivation practices in Gmelina arborea (kumil)' by A Mayavel on June 19 and 'Cultivation Practices for Cadamba' by A Vijayaraghavan on Ju-

LECTURE SERIES

ne 26.

The lectures are an initiative of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education-National Forestry Research Project. People can register by scanning a QR code being advertised regularly.

While 900 farmers regis-

tered on Friday, 490 participated in the online session streamed on Facebook Live.

IFGTB is also organizing an online knowledge series on 'Know Your Environment' for school and college students under ICFRE's Prakriti—student connect program. As many as 383 students from schools like GD Matriculation, PSBB Millennium School and Nirmala College for Women attended the first session on Friday.

Topic include 'Facts about Unknown Locusts—Solutions from Nature', 'Know Your Backyard Biodiversity' and 'Not All Microbes are Harmful'. The sessions will be conducted fortnightly in June and July.