



Report
on
World Environment Day 2021



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

Organized by

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

Digital Observance of World Environment Day by IFGTB ENVIS

The ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore marked the World Environment Day digitally through Facebook Live on 05 June 2021.

The event began with an invocation on nature, Prakruti Vandanam based on Yajur Veda, composed and sung by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator. During his introductory remarks, Dr Warriar spoke on the current year's theme, 'Ecosystem restoration'. Between now and 2030, the restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems could generate US\$9 trillion (65.16 lakh crores) in ecosystem services. Restoration could also remove 13 to 26 giga tons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The economic benefits of such interventions exceed nine times the cost of investment, whereas inaction is at least three times more costly than ecosystem restoration, he added.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB inaugurated the programme and highlighted that ecological restoration aims to recreate, initiate, or accelerate the recovery of an ecosystem that has been disturbed. Disturbances are environmental changes that alter ecosystem structure and function. Common disturbances include logging, damming rivers, intense grazing, hurricanes, floods, and fires. Restoration activities may be designed to replicate a pre-disturbance ecosystem or to create a new ecosystem, he added. Dr Kunhikannan emphasised that the practice of ecological restoration includes erosion control, reforestation, removal of non-native species and weeds, re-vegetation of disturbed areas, daylighting streams, reintroduction of native species, as well as habitat and range improvement for targeted species. The Director also highlighted on the preparation of Detailed Project Reports for rejuvenation of 13 major rivers in India by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. He urged that environmental protection is an individual and personal responsibility for all human beings since we are all part of the biosphere.

A painting competition on the theme environment was organized for people from different walks of life and individuals from different parts of the world participated in the competition. 156 unique painting photographs were received and they were scrutinized by the Chief Jury, Dr John Prasanth Jacob, Scientist G and Head, Forest Protection Division. Director Dr C Kunhikannan announced the results of the same. Among the participants Shri Tanuj Samaddar, S. E. R. S. Public School, Assam, Shri Muneeswaran V, Erode, Ms Deepshikha De, Noida bagged the first, second and third prizes respectively. Four consolation prizes were also awarded to Ms Anshika Jain, Uttar Pradesh, Ms Nisa Tandon, University of Calcutta, Shree Pradesh Vell M.U, Sona college of arts and sciences and Shri Kumar Arijit Mishra, Odisha. Prizes were awarded to the winners and E Certificates to all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the current year's theme was also released during the occasion and was digitally transmitted to students and all other stakeholders. Dr S Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer proposed the vote of thanks. The digital event can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2Rn1skI>.









ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2021

Theme: "Ecosystem Restoration"

Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact. Healthier ecosystems, with richer biodiversity, yield greater benefits such as more fertile soils, bigger yields of timber and fish, and larger stores of greenhouse gases.

Ways to Restore Ecosystem

Forests and Trees

- Plant trees
- Assist natural regeneration
- Restore Forest landscapes



Rivers and Lakes

- Clean it up
- Regular access
- Restore vegetation



Towns and Cities

- Green public spaces
- Practice sustainability
- Manage micro-ecosystems



Oceans and Coasts

- Clean up
- Restore vegetation above and below the water
- Use the ocean wisely



Farmlands and Grasslands

- Invest in nature
- Allow sustainable grazing
- Bring back indigenous species



Mountains

- Restore forest shields
- Limit extraction and excavation
- Let ecosystems migrate



Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: Growing trees, greening cities, rewilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts.

We are the generation that can make peace with nature