

Brief report on the training on ‘Biological Diversity Act, 2002’ conducted from 26 to 28 September, 2018

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore

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India is one of the 17 megadiverse countries of the world, having rich biological resources with present and potential value. The country is also a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which emphasises conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the genetic resources. As a follow up of CBD signed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Govt. of India enacted an umbrella legislation called ‘Biological Diversity Act, 2002’ in the same lines of CBD. This act has also created the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), located in Chennai, State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) in each State and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at Local Self Government (LSG) level.

In order to create awareness on this important Act, the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore organized three day training on ‘Biological Diversity Act, 2002’ for the officials of line Departments like Forest, Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries and Panchayath Raj Institutions from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, during 26 to 28 September, 2018. The training was sponsored by the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

A total number of 36 participants attended the training programme. The Department/ Institution-wise representation were as follows:

- 1) Forest Department: 24 Nos.
- 2) Agriculture Department: 1 No.
- 3) Animal Husbandry Department: 1No.
- 4) Fisheries Department: 3
- 5) IFGTB-Technical Cadre Officers – 2Nos.

6) Rural Development / Panchayath Raj institutions - 5 Nos.

During the inaugural function on 26th September, 2018, Dr. C.Kunhikannan, Scientist-F & Head, FECC Division of IFGTB welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.R.Sasidharan, Scientist-F and Training Co-ordinator gave an overview of the training programme. Dr.S.Murugesan, Scientist-G and Group Co-ordinator (Research), IFGTB delivered the presidential address. While inaugurating, the Chief Guest, Dr.Mohit Gera, IFS, Director of IFGTB pointed out that the monoculture had taken heavy toll of forest biodiversity in the past and underscored the need for conserving the biodiversity and utilize it in a sustainable manner for obtaining various ecosystem services rendered by the biodiversity, which are very essential for human survival. The Chief Guest also released the training manual. Dr.K.Panneer Selvan, Scientist-D, FECC Division proposed vote of thanks.

There were a total of eight lecture sessions on topics like overview of Floral, Faunal and Microbial Diversity of India; Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004; Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing; Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register; Intellectual Property Rights on Biological Resources as well as Biodiversity and Bioprospecting. The topics were handled by different experts on the above aspects. A field visit to the tribal hamlet of Singapathi, situated in the foot-hill of Siruvani was also organized, where the participants interacted with the traditional medical practitioners of different communities in this area and got familiarized with the utilization of various medicinal plants among the tribal communities for curing various ailments.

The participants were taken to various research divisions of IFGTB, Gass Forest Museum, Fischer Herbarium and the VAM Production Unit, where they interacted with the Scientists and other researchers.

A panel discussion was also conducted as part of the training programme. The participants were divided into three groups and assigned three different

topics. The team leaders presented the views of each group on those topics, followed by interaction among themselves and with the resource persons.

The Valedictory Function was organized on 28th September, 2018, in which Shri Deepak Srivastava, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle was the Chief Guest. He appreciated the efforts of IFGTB to organize training programme on novel topic like the ‘Biological Diversity Act, 2002’ and wished that the officials, particularly the practicing forest officials will apply the knowledge they have gained in the present training, in the field. The Chief Guest also distributed certificates to the participants. Dr.K.R.Sasidharan, Training Co-ordinator proposed vote of thanks.



Inauguration of the training by Dr.Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB



Release of Training Manual



View of participants



Group photo



Visit to Chemistry and Bioprospecting laboratory



Visit to Seed laboratory



Visit to Fischer Herbarium



Visit to Gass Forest Museum



Visit to VAM Production Unit



Interaction with tribal medical practitioners at Singapathi, Coimbatore



Tribal medical practitioner at Singapathi explaining about medicinal

plant



Field visit to the forest areas of Siruvani foot hill



Field visit to the forest areas of Siruvani foot hill



Certificate distribution by Shri Deepak Srivatsava, Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle