



Training on 'BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & NATURE EDUCATION' For Govt. School Teachers

SPONSORED BY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

07 – 09, November, 2023
ICFRE -INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING,
COIMBATORE

Education is the most powerful and dominant influence which one can use to change the world, perhaps proven by many other scholars around the world which is why we need to educate ourselves about the *importance of environmental education* in order to make the planet earth a better place to live in. Environmental education, awareness and training play a vital role in encouraging and enhancing people's participation in activities aimed at conservation, protection and management of the environment, essential for achieving sustainable development. Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has accorded highest priority for promotion of non-formal environmental education and creation of awareness in all sections of society through wide and varied programmes.

In this background, ICFRE-IFGTB imparted three days training on the theme '**Biodiversity Conservation & Nature Education**' to the **Science teachers of Government schools of Coimbatore district**. The main objective of the training was to develop biodiversity consciousness, and impart action oriented biodiversity education methods, hands on activities and exposure visits. It was witnessed from their feedback that the trained teachers would in turn become master trainers and motivate and educate students to protect and conserve local biodiversity. The training was **sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India** under the Scheme of '**Forestry Training & Capacity Building - Training of other Stakeholders**'.

The three day module was attended by 30 Science teachers of Government high schools & Government Higher Secondary School in and around Coimbatore district nominated by the office of Chief Education Officer, Coimbatore district along with

Eco-coordinator, CEO office, Coimbatore. In the inaugural session Dr. S. Saravanan, Head, Extension Division, ICFRE- IFGTB welcomed the guests and participants. Shri. G. R. Madhavaraj, IFS, Course-Coordinator gave an over view of the training module and schedule. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE- IFGTB in his inaugural address highlighted and narrated as how National Forest Commission included training of “Other stakeholders” to be important component in capacity building. He also insisted upon Teachers of National Green Corps to play an important role in creating awareness on basic education on energy, water conservation and also to involve students in creative activities. Director also informed the teachers that ICFRE-IFGTB is willing to provide services wholeheartedly on Nature and Environment awareness activities. Dr. M. U. Sharrief, Scientist F & Head of Office, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Southern Regional Center, Coimbatore, the Chief guest of the inaugural session, gave a brief orientation about the prospective and perspectives of BSI, Coimbatore, in the field of biodiversity research and conservation. He explained in briefly the floristic diversity of India in the form of national, district and regional floras. He also added that it is necessary to conserve our environment because any imbalance in the environment directly affects the existence of the biotic factors and emphasized to use the natural resources rationally in order to avoid excessive degradation of the environment. The inaugural session ended with vote of thanks proposed by Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO, IFGTB.

The technical sessions of the training had inputs on “*Amazing Avifauna*” by Dr. C. P. Pramod, Sr. Principal Scientist, WII (Southern Region), Coimbatore, “*Biodiversity and Climate Change*” by Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist, ICFRE-IFGTB, “*World of Tigers*” by Shri. K. Kalidasan, President, OSAI-Environmental Organization, “*Wildlife Conservation and Man-Animal Conflict Management*” by Dr. N. S. Manoharan, M. V. Sc., Addl. Director of Vet. Sciences (Rtd.), “*World of Butterflies*” by Mr. Mohan Prasath, Member, Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society, “*Biodiversity: Laws, Acts and Regulations*” by Shri. G. Chandrasekaran, DCF (Rtd.), TNFA, “*Plant diversity of Tamil Nadu*” by Dr. S. P. Subramani, CTO, ICFRE-IFGTB & “*LiFE Mission*” by Shri. A. Vigneswaran, Programme Co-ordinator, ENVIS, ICFRE-IFGTB.

An exclusive one day field trip to *Silent Valley National Park, Kerala* was organized as part of training to learn on protected area and its pivotal role in landscape ecosystem. The teachers were taken to a nature trek to observe the biodiversity and learn as part of their nature education strategy. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB explained about different forest types, species composition, wide variety of herbs, shrubs, Trees, climbers and medicinal plants in the Silent Valley during the field trip. Participants were also taken to Insect Museum, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The participants also visited Gass Forest Museum in ICFRE-IFGTB to learn importance of Natural History as educational tool.

The participants shared their memorable experiences of the training in the concluding session on 09.11.2023. During the valedictory session, Dr. R. Yasodha, Group Co-ordinator Research, ICFRE-IFGTB highlighted the activities/programs

carried out at ICFRE-IFGTB for school students, especially for Government school students. She encouraged the teachers to motivate the students to get involved in nature connecting programs for future endeavor. The Director, ICFRE-IFGTB emphasized the need to adapt creative pedagogy and teaching methodologies for the students to make nature education more attractive to the students. The valedictory function ended with the distribution of certificates and vote of thanks proposed by Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, ACTO,IFGTB.

(DIRECTOR, IFGTB)



Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB addressing the participants



Dr. M. U. Sharrief, Scientist & Head in-charge, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore District during his address to the teachers



'Amazing fauna' by Dr. P.Pramod, Sr. Principal Scientist, SACON, Anaikatty



"Biodiversity and Climate Change" by Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist, ICFRE-IFGTB



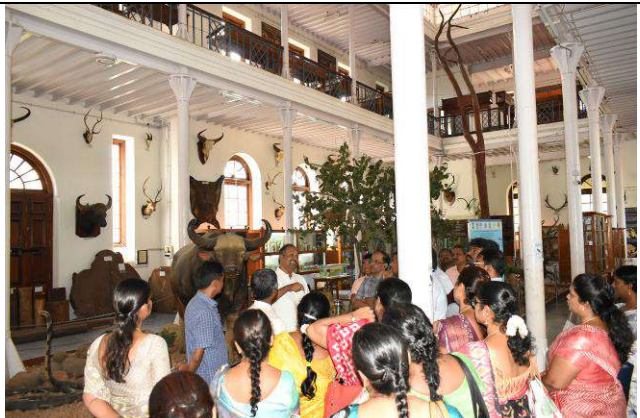
Visit to Insect Museum TNAU, Coimbatore



Field Visit to Silent Valley National Park, Kerala



“World of Butterflies” by Mr. Mohan Prasath, Member, Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society



Visit to Gass Forest Museum conducted by Sh.P.Chandrasekaran, ACTO,IFGTB



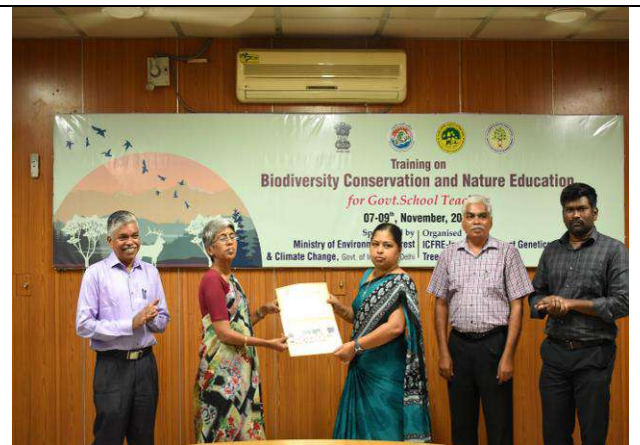
LiFE Mission by Sh.Vigneswaran, ENVIS,IFGTB



Distribution of LiFE Mission poster to the participant



Feedback by the participant



Certificate distribution by Dr.R. Yasodha, GCR