

REPORT ON THE TRAINING ON 'BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002'
(17th to 19th February 2016)
INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
COIMBATORE

As a follow up of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Govt. of India enacted an umbrella legislation called the "Biological Diversity Act, 2002". The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 aims at conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In order to sensitize the faculty, scientists and research scholars working in universities/ colleges/ research institutions on various implications of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on their research activities, a training programme was conducted in the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, from 17th to 19th February 2016. The training was sponsored by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai.

The training was started on 17th February 2016. During the Inaugural Function, Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme, welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the programme. Dr.B.Gurudev Singh, Group Co-ordinator (Research) addressed the participants. Shri R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB delivered the presidential address. Dr.N.Sasidharan, Eminent Plant Taxonomist and Emeritus Scientist from Kerala Forest Research Institute inaugurated the training programme. He also released the Training Manual. During his inaugural address, he pointed out that fire and invasion of weeds are hampering the natural regeneration of several valuable species in the forests. He also highlighted the acute shortage of many important medicinal plants in the wild, which are essential ingredients of ayurvedic medicines and stressed the need for finding out alternatives. He underscored the need for documenting the traditional knowledge and fool-proof action for preventing 'bio-piracy'. He opined that the digital technology has become a handy tool for creating awareness on biological diversity, among the public.

A total number of 35 participants consisting of faculty, scientists and research scholars working in various universities/ colleges/ research institutions/ industries located in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry attended the training. The following eight lecture sessions were conducted during the training programme:-

1. Plant diversity of India : Status and conservation- Dr. C. Kunhikannan
2. Animal resources of India and their conservation- Dr. K.R. Sasidharan
3. Overview of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004- Dr. R.V. Varma
4. Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing - Dr.R.V. Varma

5. Bioprospecting of natural resources in India - Dr. S. Murugesan
6. Intellectual Property Right and Biodiversity: The regulatory regime under the Biological Diversity Act - Dr. Prabha S.Nair
7. Traditional knowledge on medicinal plants in some tribal communities of Tamil Nadu - Dr. K. Panneer Selvam
8. Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register - Dr.P.Promod

A field visit to the tribal settlement at Singapathy, located in the foot hill of Siruvani was also conducted on 18th February 2016, and the participants interacted with the tribal medical practitioners, on the traditional use of medicinal plants in their community. The participants also visited the laboratories of IFGTB and the vegetative propagation complex and interacted with the researchers. A panel discussion was also organized among the participants on the following topics: (i) Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ii) Intellectual Property Right on Biological Resources (iii) Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register by dividing them in to three groups. The participants interacted well with the resource persons and among themselves during the training programme and appreciated the training programme.

The Valedictory Function was conducted in the in the afternoon on 19.2.2016. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-E & Head, Biodiversity Division welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme presented a report on the training programme. Dr.S.Murugesan, Scientist-G and Director-in-Charge, IFGTB presided over the function. The Chief Guest, Dr. Prabha S. Nair, Consultant (Biodiversity Law), Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai delivered the Valedictory Address. The Chief Guest also gave away the certificates to the participants. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme proposed vote of thanks.



Lighting of lamp during Inauguration



Release of training manual



Dr. B.Gurudev Singh, Group Co-ordinator (Research) addressing the participants



Presidential Address by Shri R.S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Dr. N. Sasidharan, Emeritus Scientist, KFRl delivering Inaugural Address



Lecture sessions during the training programme



Field visit during the training programme



Participants interacting with tribal medical practitioners on traditional knowledge



Visit to Laboratory of Bioprospecting Division, IFGTB



Visit to laboratory of Plant Biotechnology & Cytogenetics Division, IFGTB



Visit to vegetative propagation complex, IFGTB



Visit to Fischer Herbarium, IFGTB



Visit to Gass Forest Museum, IFGTB



Panel discussion during training programme



Chief Guest Dr. Prabha S. Nair, Consultant (Biodiversity Law), NBA, Chennai delivering Valedictory Address



Certificate distribution by the Chief Guest



Group photo of the participants