



**Report**  
**on**  
**International Day For Biological Diversity**



**22 MAY 2021**  
**BIODIVERSITY DAY**  
**We're part of the solution #ForNature**

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 International Day For Biological Diversity 2021 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 International Day for Biological Diversity digitally through Facebook Live on 22 May 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, We're part of the solution # For Nature. He highlighted that as the global community is called to re-examine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. Biodiversity involves 8 million plant and animal species, their ecosystems and the genetic diversity among them. We are losing the invaluable treasure at an alarming rate that, it has been estimated that, within the next 10 years, one out of every four known species may have been wiped off the planet. Dr Warriar pointed out that it has been estimated that to meet the innumerable demands that humans make on nature each year, we may require about more than an additional half of Earth. That is about 1.6 earths to satisfy our greeds.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director IFGTB inaugurated the programme and highlighted that each species on earth has its value and contributes to biological diversity which is essential for humans. And if this biological diversity sustained damage due to our reckless behaviour, then the humanity would be deprived of many natural and other resources. In the past few decades, there has been widespread exploitation of resources without due consideration to its maintenance which resulted in damage to the environment. Of late, there have been widespread concerns to preserve and protect the ecosystem, he added. Dr Kunhikannan highlighted the current year's theme "We're part of the solution". This year's slogan is a continuation of 2020 theme "Our solutions are in nature". This serves as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. He urged all to join together to conserve biodiversity for a sustainable future.

A mobile photography competition on the theme biodiversity was organized for people from different walks of life and individuals from different parts of the world participated in the competition and Director Dr C Kunhikannan announced the results of the same. Among the 121 participants who took part in the contest from different countries, Ms Divya. N, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Shri Anto Thomas, Research Scholar, Department of Environmental Biotechnology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Ms Athira KR from Kerala bagged the first, second and third prizes respectively. Four consolation prizes were also awarded to Shri Akarsh Sivaprasad, United States of America, Dr Pankaj Kumar, Nagpur Veterinary College, Ms Astha Srivastava, University of Lucknow, Ms Madagoni Venkatesham, Telangana. 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/3f7R6OQ>.









## ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

*Theme : We're part of the solution*

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. The biodiversity we see today is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend. This diversity is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms. So far, about 1.75 million species have been identified, mostly small creatures such as insects. Scientists reckon that there are actually about 13 million species, though estimates range from three to 100 million. Biodiversity also includes genetic differences within each species - for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock.

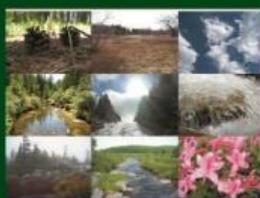
### 'Goods and Services' provided by ecosystems include:

- Provision of food, fuel and fibre
- Provision of shelter and building materials
- Purification of air and water
- Detoxification and decomposition of wastes
- Stabilization and moderation of the Earth's climate
- Moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes and the forces of wind
- Ability to adapt to change
- Pollination of plants, including many crops
- Control of pests and diseases
- Maintenance of genetic resources
- Cultural and aesthetic benefits
- Generation and renewal of soil fertility, including nutrient cycling

## Ways to Conserve Biodiversity



Plant more trees



Conserve natural resources



Protect natural habitats



Attract pollinators



Go Ecofriendly



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Create awareness



Practice sustainable agriculture