

SEMINAR ON HIGH ALTITUDE WETLAND AND THEIR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted a Seminar on 'High Altitude Wetland and their Conservation Strategies' on 27th June 27, 2022. Shri Tajum Doni, Scientist, RFRI was the speaker who gave a detailed presentation on subject.

Dr. RSC Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed the Guest Speaker of the Seminar. Altogether, 50 Officials participated in the Seminar.

He started with basic concept involving wetland which refers to an area fully or partially immersed in water for a part or whole of the year. These wetlands vary widely in term of regional and local differences in soils, topography, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation, etc. He also spoke about the classifications of wetlands such as marine wetland, man-made wetland and inland wetland. High altitude wetlands can be defined as areas of swamp, marsh, fen, peat-land or water bodies located at an altitude higher than 3000 m above mean sea level, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or saline. The high altitude wetlands are further subdivided into Alpine lakes, Glacial lakes, Alpine ponds, Marshes and Swamps, Peat lands, Streams, Springs.

A global distribution of high altitude wetlands was also shown. In India, highest number of wetlands is found in J&K followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. Indian Himalayas covers about 591,000 sq.km i.e. 18% of India's land surface.

Wetlands have many advantages. It supports vast diversity of medicinal plants. It provides recreation and tourism. In 2020, about two lakh tourists visited wetlands of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. Despite being located within sparsely populated areas, they have immense cultural and spiritual significance for communities downstream.

High Altitude wetland supports varied flora and fauna which include some of the rare and endemic species viz. Red Panda, wild Yak, Wild Ass or Kiang, Snow Leopard etc. These are also the breeding ground for migratory species viz., Black-necked Crane and Bar-headed Goose.

GLIMPSES OF THE SEMINAR

