

SENSITIZATION COURSE ON BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION

FOR TEACHERS OF KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA

INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE

Date: 23.10.2019 to 25.10.2019

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India has been promoting training programmes on various aspects of biodiversity and its conservation and the present sensitization course is a step towards creating awareness on this important issue. Awareness on the biodiversity richness of our country and need for its conservation and sustainable utilization has to percolate down to younger generations, particularly the students who are the future citizens of the country. This mission is possible only through teachers and thus we have selected a group of school teachers for this sensitization programme, so that the message is conveyed to the student community.

As a follow up of the MOU signed between ICFRE and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, a **Sensitization Course on Biodiversity and its Conservation** for refreshing the knowledge of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas organized and was inaugurated in IFGTB on 23rd October 2019, which was sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

The inaugural function was initiated with an invocation by Dr. Kannan C.S. Warriar, Scientist- F, and followed by welcome address by Dr.B. Nagarajan, Scientist-G and Head, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division. Dr. S. Murugesan, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore inaugurated the programme and released the Training Manual. During his inaugural address, he stressed the importance of biodiversity and usage of biological products in various walks of life. He also mentioned integration of approaches by incorporating techniques from other disciplines such as biotechnology, phytochemistry etc. with regard to the utilization of various plant products. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist -G & Coordinator of the training programme gave an overview of the programme and Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist -E, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division proposed vote of thanks.

Twenty six teachers from seven Kendriya Vidyalayas situated at Coimbatore, Madurai, Sivaganga, Virudanagar and Karaikudi attended the course. Nine class room sessions were conducted on topics such as Plant Diversity in India-status and conservation, Faunal diversity in India and its conservation, Microbial Diversity, The biology of reproduction in trees, Applications of biotechnology in forestry, Intellectual property rights, People's participation in conservation, Policy framework of

biodiversity conservation, Bioprospecting of natural resources during this programme. Visit was arranged for the participants to the Gass Forest Museum of Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The participants were also taken for field study tour to Silent Valley National Park, Palakkad District, Kerala State. Participants were made into three groups and a topic for discussion was given to each group. An interactive session was made and each group was asked to come up with a presentation of their group activities. All the groups discussed and presented their topic well.

The valedictory function was conducted on 25th October, 2019. Dr. B.Nagarajan, Scientist-G and Head, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-G, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division and Coordinator gave a brief report on the training programme. Dr. S. Murugesan, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore gave Valedictory address and explained the ill effects of chemical pesticides and artificial coloring agents and requested to encourage the usage of biological products. He distributed the certificates to the participants. The director congratulated the training coordinator and his team for successful conduct of the training programme. Dr. C.Kunhikannan, proposed the vote of thanks. The training programme won high appreciation from all the participants, both in terms of technical content and arrangements made for reception, transportation, boarding and lodging and field visit. Some of the participants opined that the training made them more confident for handling their classes efficiently and ensured to inculcate the ethos of conservation in students. The participants suggested for conducting more such programmes in future so that their fellow teachers will also get benefitted.



Inauguration of the programme by Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore



Inaugural speech by Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore



Introduction by Participants



Release of Training Manual



Group photo



Class room session



Class room session



Field trip to Silent Valley



Field trip to Silent Valley



Field trip to Silent Valley



Field trip to Silent Valley



Presentation by participant



Valedictory address by the Director



Distribution of certificate