

## **TRAINING ON PLANT TAXONOMY**

### **INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE**

Date: 04.03.2015 to 06.03.2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Batch)

The second batch of training programme on 'Plant Taxonomy' for skill upgradation of University /College/ School teachers and Research Scholars working in the field of Biodiversity/Taxonomy was inaugurated in IFGTB on 4th March 2015. The training programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

The inaugural function was initiated with an invocation on nature by Dr. Kannan C.S.Warrier. Dr.C.Kunhikannan, Head, Biodiversity Division and Co-ordinator of the training programme welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the programme. Shri R.S.Prashanth, IFS, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore delivered the presidential address and underscored the importance of Plant Taxonomy in Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. P.A. Azeez, Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Anaikatty, Coimbatore. He pointed out the sharp decline in the number of researchers specializing on Taxonomy and called upon youngsters to pursue research in this fundamental branch of Biological Science. He also appreciated the efforts taken by IFGTB to organize this training programme, so as to popularize research in the field of Plant Taxonomy. Dr.K.R.Sasidharan, Scientist-E, Biodiversity Division proposed vote of thanks.

A total number of 33 participants from various universities, colleges, schools and research institutions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala attended the training under this programme. Eight class room sessions were conducted on topics such as Plant Diversity of India, Plant Morphology, Fundamentals of Plant Classification, International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants (ICN), Grass Diversity, Application of DNA Barcoding in Taxonomy, Bryophyte and Pteridophyte Taxonomy, during this programme. Visit was arranged for the participants to the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India (Acronym: MH), Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore. The participants were also taken for field study tours to buffer zone of Silent Valley National Park, Palakkad District, Kerala State and Maruthamalai Hills, Coimbatore.

The valedictory function was conducted on 06th March 2015. Dr.K.R.Sasidharan, Scientist-E, Biodiversity Division welcomed the gathering. Shri. R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore presided over the function. Dr. V. S. Ramachandran, Professor (Retd.), Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest during the function and he delivered the Valedictory Address. Dr. C.Kunhikannan, Head, Biodiversity Division and Coordinator of the training programme 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. They opined that the training made them more confident for handling taxonomy classes for students. The participants suggested for conducting such training programmes every year, for one week duration, during the vacation time of educational institutions.



Inaugural function



Inauguration by the chief guest Dr. P.A. Azeez, Director, SACON



Inaugural speech by Dr. P. A. Azeez



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



Participants



Class room session



Participants in Silent Valley buffer zone



Participants in Silent Valley buffer zone



Participants in Silent Valley buffer zone



Participants at Anaikatty Forest



Valedictory function



Certificate distribution



Certificate distribution