

Awareness Workshop on Conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened Plant Species

“Awareness Workshop on Conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened Plant Species” was organized at Institute of Forest Productivity Ranchi on 29th March 2014 under the project titled “Improvement of infrastructural facilities in the Botanic Garden of Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi to develop it as a ‘Lead Garden’ in Jharkhand for ex situ conservation of rare and endangered plant species” sponsored by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by 50 participants including students, researchers, scientists, NGO personnel and farmers.



The workshop was inaugurated with ceremonial lightening of lamp by the chief guest Prof. K. K. Nag, Former Vice Chancellor of Ranchi and Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh along with Dr. S. A. Ansari, Director, IFP Ranchi and distinguished invited speakers from Birsa Agricultural University Ranchi, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, NBPGR Eastern Region, Plandu and BB University, Hazaribagh.

At the outset Dr. S. Ansari welcomed all the delegates. In his welcome address he emphasized the need to take up holistic and multidisciplinary efforts to conserve plant species disappearing at an alarming rate. Correct and authenticated identification of plant species will be crucial. However, he advised the young researchers for caution in loosely using the terms as threatened, rare, vulnerable etc. as it may result in misreporting of the facts.



Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist E and Head, FPMB Division, and Principal Investigator of the project introduced the participants about the scope and agenda of the Workshop. He informed the delegates that in consultation with Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata the Institute has shortlisted 21 RET plant species of the Jharkhand. These species have been brought from different areas for *ex situ* conservation in the 'Lead garden' established under the project.



Key note address was delivered by Prof. K. K. Nag on the topic 'Conservation strategies and approach with reference to eastern Indian region'. Dr. Nag observed that conservation values and ethics have been nicely enshrined in the Indian culture. He said local traditional knowledge of rural and indigenous communities should be respected, documented and acknowledged by the urban population. Dr. advocated a harmony between taxonomical field studies and modern tools and techniques for conservation of RET species.



This followed lectures by invited speakers as shown below:

1. Dr. M. H. Siddique, Dean Forestry BAU Ranchi
Conservative approach to utilize medicinal and other plants in Jharkhand plateau
2. Prof. P. K. Mishra, Binova Bhave University, Hazaribagh
Role of Traditional knowledge in conservation
3. Dr. Rajib Bandopadhyaya, BIT Mesra, Ranchi
In situ and ex situ conservation of RET plant species with special reference to Guggul in a scientific method
4. Dr. R. S. Rathi, NBPGR Ranchi
Role of germplasm collection and management in conservation

A presentation was also made by Dr. Animesh Sinha, Head Genetics and Breeding Division, IFP Ranchi on 'Ex situ conservation of mangroves: An initiative in Jharkhand'. Dr. Sinha discussed about successful introduction of some of the mangrove species in Chotanagpur plateau and their multiplication through vegetative means.

A session was devoted to the presentations by young scholars for encouraging and showcasing their research on the conservation. Finally much interaction and deliberations took place during the brainstorming session on research and management perspectives pertaining to RET plant species. In the valedictory session awards were given to two young researchers namely Sh. Amit Kumar, SFD Ranchi for his exploratory research on RET plants in Jharkhand and Sh. Vijay Kuamr, BIT Mesra for his work on

characterization and multiplication of *Swertia chirata*. Six other students also received prizes for their active involvement in the Workshop.



Divisional staff and Project team members namely Sh. Pankaj Singh, Research Officer, Sh. R. S. Prasad, Research Officer, Sh. R. Ranjan, RA I, Sh. H. S. Lal, SRF, Sh. A. Roy, RA II made valuable contribution in successful implementation of the Workshop.