

RFRI celebrates World Environment Day-2013

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat celebrated World Environment Day-2013 jointly with *Panchawati Prakiti Mancha*, an environment based NGO of Jorhat at Mahatma Gandhi College, Jorhat (Assam) on 5th June, 2013. A large section of people mainly school and college students, apart from Scientists, Officers and Supporting Staff of RFRI participated in the celebration. Various events were organized to mark the occasion.

The celebration was kicked off with ceremonious plantation of sapling of *Terminalia chebula*, (commonly known as *Silikha*) by Sri Manik Lahkar, a local litterateur. While addressing the gathering, Sri Lahkar put emphasis on caring and nurturing of planted saplings.

A Open Environmental Quiz competition was held among all the people attending the function. The Quiz competition was conducted by Mrs. Dibyaa Saikia, an advocate of Jorhat and assisted by Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI. Overwhelming response from students was received during the competition.

Drawing competition in three categories was organized to make awareness among the students. These three categories were: i. Class I to V; ii. Class VI to VIII and iii. Class IX to XII.

An Essay writing competition was organized on the issues of environmental problems. Three best participants were selected.

Coinciding with the occasion, a Souvenir '*Seuji Dhoroni*' (Green Earth) was released by Dr. Ajit Dutta, Rtd. Professor, J. B. College, Jorhat.

'Open Session' was held to generate awareness among the common masses about the environmental issues. Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed all the dignitaries and audience to the Open Session. He explained the aims and objectives of the meeting. The Open Session was chaired by Sri Promod Saikia, a retired teacher and President of *Panchawati Prakiti Mancha*.

Dr. Poran Barua, senior Scientists from CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat delivered an informative talk on biodiversity of NE and emphasised on their conservation issues. He expressed serious concern on vanishing different local species of flora and fauna due to heavy human exploitations.

Three eminent environmental workers namely Sri Narayan Rabidas, Sri Ananda Chandra Barua and Sri Sunil Kumar Saikia were felicitated in the Open Session in recognition to their contributions towards environmental protection. The trio have been relentlessly working on reducing man elephant conflicts, conservation of Adjutant Stork of Assam and encouraging plantations respectively in the Jorhat district of Assam. However, Sri Ananda Chandra Barua could not receive the felicitation personally due to ill health.

Celebration of World Environment Day 2013

Delivering key-note address on contemporary issues coinciding with theme of this year celebration i.e. *Think.Eat.Save-Reduce Your Foodprint*, Dr. Montu Bhuyan, a young Scientist from CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat highlighted various aspects of wastages of our food grains that we incur in our day to day life. He appealed all sections of people to save our food materials so as to conserve our scarce and priceless natural resources. He put much emphasis on conservation of water resources.

Prizes for various competitions held were distributed to the winners at the Session.



Sri Raktim Ranjan Saikia, Secretary, *Panchwati Prakiti Mancha* address the gathering on the eve of ceremonial plantation programme



Ceremonial Plantation of Sapling by Sri Manik Lahkar



Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI felitates Sri Manik Lahkar



Sri Promod Saikia, President, *Panchawati Prakriti Mancha* addresses the gathering



A section of gathering



A group photo

Celebration of World Environment Day 2013



Students busy in Drawing Competition

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Mrs. Dibyaa Saikia conducted the Open Environmental Quiz competition



Sri R. K. Kalita assisted in conducting Quiz Competition



Releasing of Souvenir '*Seuji Dhoroni*'



Dr. R. K. Borah, Scientist, RFRI, Jorhat addresses the gathering Souvenir release function



Sri R. K. Kalita, Scientist, RFRI, Jorhat addresses the gathering in the Open Session



Dr. Poran Barua, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat addresses the gathering in the Open Session



Sri Narayan Rabidas felicitated by Dr. Poran Barua, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat in the Open Session



Sri Sunil Saikia felicitated by Dr. Montu Bhuyan, Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat in the Open Session

Celebration of World Environment Day 2013



Prize Distribution to the winners of various competitions