



Report
on
International Mountain Day 2022



Organized by

EIACP PC

on

Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore

International Mountain Day 2022 Celebrations by IFGTB EIACP PC

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), a Tree Sapling Planting Programme was organized by EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Program Centre on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) on 12.12.2022 to celebrate International Mountain Day 2022.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB inaugurated the event and explained about the significance and conservation of forest genetic resources and their role in preserving the mountain ecosystems. Mountains play a key role in the support of global environmental, economic, social and cultural sectors through connections to combating air pollution, climate change, mining, hydropower, tourism, forests and agriculture. Mountain tourism attracts around 15 to 20 % of global tourism, sustainable tourism in mountains can contribute to creating additional and alternative livelihood options and promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation, he added. The Director also urges all to join hands to protect the mountain ecosystems.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP PC Coordinator in his awareness lecture highlighted on the current year's theme of International Mountain Day prescribed by the United Nations "Women Move Mountains" and explained that mountains host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots and 30% of all Key Biodiversity Areas. Women play a key role in environmental protection and social and economic development in mountain areas. They are often the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge, custodians of local culture and experts in traditional medicine. Increasing climate variability, coupled with a lack of investment in mountain agriculture and rural development, has often pushed men to migrate elsewhere in search of alternative livelihoods. Women have therefore taken on many tasks formerly done by men, yet mountain women are often invisible due to a lack of decision-making power and unequal access to resources. As farmers, market sellers, businesswomen, artisans, entrepreneurs and community leaders, mountain women and girls, in particular in rural areas, have the potential to be major agents of change, he added. Dr Warriar emphasized that when rural women have access to resources, services and opportunities, they become a driving force against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty and are active in the development of mountain economies.

While giving an insight to the role of women in conserving mountains, Dr R Yasodha, Scientist G and Group Coordinator Research insisted that the true essence of sustainable development lies in fulfilling present needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Women's empowerment is a key factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability, she added.

Saplings of indigenous medicinal and timber tree species like *Trema orientalis* (Indian Charcoal Tree), *Ficus benjamina* (Weeping Fig), *Ficus hispida* (Hairy Fig), *Terminalia bellirica* (Belleric Myrobalan), *Terminalia elliptica* (Indian Laurel) and *Phoenix dactylifera* (Date Palm) etc were planted in the Botanical Garden by officers, staff members and scholars of IFGTB.

An awareness poster on '**Women move mountains**', was released and disseminated to various schools & the general public in and around the district, its digital copies were shared with all the stakeholders. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, EIACP PC proposed the vote of thanks.









**ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY - 2022

Theme : "Women move mountains"

Women play a key role in mountains environmental protection and social and economic development. They are often the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge, custodians of local culture, and experts in traditional medicine. Increasing climate variability, coupled with a lack of investment in mountain agriculture and rural development, has often pushed men to migrate elsewhere in search of alternative livelihoods. Women have therefore taken on many tasks formerly done by men, yet mountain women are often invisible due to a lack of decision-making power and unequal access to resources.

(Source: FAO, United Nations)

Do You Know ?



Mountains host about
half of the world's biodiversity
hotspots and
30%
of all Key Biodiversity Areas



More than half
of humanity relies on
mountain freshwater for
everyday life

Rural Mountain Women Are
Vital to Biodiversity
Conservation,
and Water and Food
Security



Mountain covers around
27 %
of Earth's land surface



6
important food
crops originated
and diversified in the mountains



Mountains are home to
15%
of World's population

