



LECTURE ON “BASICS OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS” UNDER PRAKRITI PROGRAMME

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (ICFRE-IFGTB), Coimbatore conducted a one day lecture program on “**Basics of molecular biology and Biochemistry**” for students of Tamil Nadu Corporation Higher Secondary School, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore, on 16th February 2023 under the “**Prakriti**” programme. The event was attended by 26 students. Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-G & Head, Division of Plant Biotechnology and Cytogenetics welcomed the participants. This was followed by filming of “Walking Tall with trees” highlighting the achievements of ICFRE-IFGTB. An introductory lecture on “Biosphere to DNA” was delivered by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB. He emphasized on the importance of understanding life science, and its diversity. This was followed by a lecture on “Introduction to Biotechnology” delivered by Dr. R. Yasodha, Scientist-G & Group Coordinator Research. She narrated the importance of biotechnology which can be used as a vital tool to benefit the society.

The first lecture in this series was delivered by Dr. Rekha Warriar, Scientist-F, Division of Plant Biotechnology and Cytogenetics on “Biomolecules”. She explained in-depth on the basic structure and function of micro and macro molecules such as amino acids, lipid, sugar, nucleic acids, protein and polysaccharides. This was followed by a short talk on “The history of DNA” delivered by Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-G & Head, Division of Plant Biotechnology and Cytogenetics. The third lecture on “Basics of Molecular Biology” was delivered by Dr. A. Shanthi, Scientist-E, Division of Plant Biotechnology and Cytogenetics. The lecture covered the basics on nucleic acids including DNA structure and replication, RNA structure and protein synthesis.

Dr. Vigneshwaran from ENVIS, ICFRE-IFGTB addressed the students on “Life Mission” highlighting the importance of conservation of nature. Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-F & Head, Extension Division enumerated the extension activities of the Institute for the school students. In his concluding remarks, Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB urged the students to enhance their knowledge base through regular interactions and in-depth reading. The program ended with vote of thanks by Mrs. S. Sudha, Technical officer.



