



LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Report

on

World Environment Day 2023



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

Organized by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore – 641 002**

World Environment Day 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) and Mission LiFE, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated the World Environment Day 2023 by organizing various awareness campaigns, events and a Cyclothon – an awareness cycle rally. An awareness song on nature penned by Smt. Priya Karanavar, composed and sung by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator was released during the occasion for MoEFCC, GoI. The main aim of these events was to create and spread awareness about the significance of the environment and to beat plastic pollution.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator during his awareness lecture, elaborated about the current year's theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution". Dr Warriar explained that 19 to 23 million tonnes of plastic leak into aquatic ecosystems annually. Plastic pollution has devastating effects on a wide array of organisms in our seas, rivers, and on land. Marine litter harms more than 800 species. More than 90 per cent of all birds and fish are believed to have plastic particles in their stomachs. The effects of microplastic ingestion are catastrophic; they cause starvation, endocrine disruption, stunted growth in some species and broken-down digestive systems. Plastic can prevent aquatic life from receiving oxygen and light, while microplastics can also accumulate in the soil due to their use in agricultural products. The production of plastic is one of the most energy-intensive manufacturing processes in the world, which is a problem when it comes to meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C. In 2019, plastic generated 1.8 billion metric tonnes of GHGs – 3.4 per cent of the global total – with 90 per cent of those emissions coming from plastic production and the conversion of fossil fuels. Most plastics originate from fossil fuels and the plastic industry accounts for 6 per cent of global oil consumption, he added.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director inaugurated the programme and emphasised that Earth is the only planet known to have life in the universe. Director highlighted that humans have come to dominate the planet, causing rapid ecosystem change and massive loss of biodiversity across the planet. As a result, we must cherish and preserve what we receive from the environment. However, we are misusing resources and exploiting the natural gifts that have been so heavily endowed upon us. Overuse and misuse of all the natural resources are causing environmental degradation at an alarming rate, he added. Dr Kunhikannan highlighted that reusing plastic products and materials help extend their lifecycles and reduce wastage. Innovative reuse models like glass or steel bottles,

cloth or jute shopping bags, plastic-free dental care alternatives and plastic-free packaging reduce plastic pollution and save costs. Director also explained that an environment consists of both biotic and abiotic factors that influence the community. Nature provides whatever human and other living organisms needed. Nature is always resilient. He emphasised that environmental sustainability is one of the biggest issues faced by the mankind at present due to urbanization, industrialization and modern agricultural practices. India is one of the recognized mega-diverse countries of the world, harbouring nearly 8% of World's biodiversity. Director insisted that everyone must join hands to rebuild and protect natural resources and biodiversity in the ecosystems. Environmental protection is a paragliding concept that describes everything we do to protect our planet and conserve its natural resources so that the quality of life can be enhanced for every organism.

As part of the celebrations, Cyclothon – an awareness cycle rally was organized on 04.06.2023 to make awareness to the general public on the theme beat plastic pollution. A mobile photography contest on the current year's theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" was also conducted in which people from different walks of life participated. Certificates were awarded to the participants of the Cyclothon and mobile photography competition. Prizes and certificates to the winners and the participants of the In-house quiz were awarded by the Director.

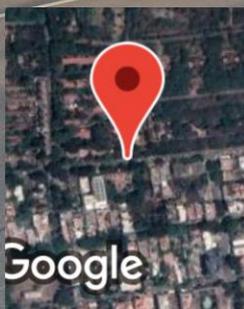
An awareness poster highlighting the current year's theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" was released during this occasion. Copies of the poster and handouts were distributed to the school children in and around Coimbatore. Softcopy of the awareness poster and handouts were shared electronically to various stakeholders. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer proposed the vote of thanks. All the campaigns and events were registered globally at <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>.

Link to the song on Nature: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLDeTH4DABE>









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 **GPS Map Camera**





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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

THEME: SOLUTIONS TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

A Few Facts About Plastic Pollution



Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the Earth **4 times!**

ONE MILLION sea birds & 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans



35 BILLION plastic water bottles are thrown away every year

Plastic constitutes approximately

90% of all trash floating on the ocean

The average American throws away approximately



185 LBS of plastic per year.

50%

of the plastic we use, we use **JUST ONCE** and throw away.

#BeatPlasticPollution

#MERILIFE

#Chooselife

#MissionLiFE

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