

REPORT ON THE TRAINING ON 'BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002'
(1-3 February 2017)
INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
COIMBATORE

As a follow up of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Govt. of India enacted an umbrella legislation called the "Biological Diversity Act, 2002". The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 aims at conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In order to sensitize the faculty, scientists and research scholars working in universities/ colleges/ research institutions on various implications of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on their research activities, a training programme was conducted in the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, from 1-3 February 2017. The training was sponsored by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai.

The training was started on 1st February 2017. During the Inaugural Function, Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme, welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the programme. Dr. S. Murugesan, Group Co-ordinator (Research) IFGTB delivered the presidential address. Dr. P.S.Udayan, Assistant Professor & Eminent Taxonomist, P.G. Department of Botany & Research Centre, Sree Krishna College, Guruvayur inaugurated the training programme. He also released the Training Manual. During his inaugural address, he gave an overview of the floristic diversity of the Western Ghats. He pointed out that fast spreading of monoculture plantations like rubber in Kerala part of the Western Ghats has been at the cost of the pristine natural forests. He called upon to undertake floristic explorations and taxonomical studies to bring out hitherto unknown plant species available in the Western Ghats forests. He observed that there is acute shortage of medicinal plants used in pharmaceutical industries and often companies are compelled to use substitutes, which might in turn reduce the efficacy of medicines. The inaugural session was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-E & Head, Biodiversity Division.

A total number of 30 participants consisting of faculty, scientists, research scholars and forest department staff working in various universities/ colleges/ research institutions/ industries/department located in Tamil Nadu and Kerala attended the training. The following eight lecture sessions were conducted during the training programme:

1. Plant diversity of India : Status and conservation - Dr. C. Kunhikannan
2. Animal resources of India and their conservation - Dr. K.R. Sasidharan
3. Microbial diversity of India and its utilization - Dr.V.Mohan
4. Bioprospecting of natural resources in India - Dr. S. Murugesan
5. Intellectual Property Right and Biodiversity: The regulatory regime under the Biological Diversity Act - Dr. R. Senthil Kumar

6. Overview of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 - Dr. R.V. Varma
7. Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing - Dr. R.V. Varma
8. Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register - Dr. P. Promod

A field visit to the tribal settlement at Singapathy, located in the foot hill of Siruvani was also conducted on 2nd February 2017 and the participants interacted with the tribal medical practitioners, on the traditional use of medicinal plants in their community. The participants also visited the laboratories of IFGTB, Fischer Herbarium and Gass Forest Museum. A panel discussion was organized among the participants on the following topics: (i) Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ii) Intellectual Property Right on Biological Resources and (iii) Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register: Role of Research and Educational Institutions, by dividing them in to three groups. The participants interacted well with the resource persons and among themselves during the training programme and appreciated the training programme.

The Valedictory Function was conducted in the in the afternoon on 3rd February, 2017. Dr.S.Murugesan, Scientist-G and Group Co-ordinator (Research) IFGTB presided over the function. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-E & Head, Biodiversity Division welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme presented a report on the training programme. The Chief Guest delivered the valedictory address also gave away the certificates to the participants. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme proposed vote of thanks.

Inauguration & Group photo



Lecture sessions



Visit to laboratories, Fischer Herbarium & Gass Forest Museum



Field Visit & Interaction with Tribal Community



Valedictory function

