



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

EKAA

Environment. Kerala. Awareness. Action

Monthly - Newsletter of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board

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IB Day

PBR CAMPAIGN

ENVIRONMENT DAY

WORKSHOP

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2023 CELEBRATED

Upholding the theme of International Biodiversity Day 2023, 'From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity', Kerala State Biodiversity Board organized a state-level one-day workshop on "Conservation of Sacred Groves with People's Participation" on 22.05.2023 at Kerala Sahitya Academy, Thrissur District, Kerala. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness about the importance of the conservation of sacred groves, promote community engagement in its conservation, and develop strategies for the sustainable management of sacred groves.

The inaugural function started at 10.00 am with the welcome address by Sri. K.V. Govindan (Member, KSBB). Dr. C. George Thomas (Chairman, KSBB) presided over the meeting and highlighted the relevance of the celebrations of International day for Biological Diversity and the conservation of Sacred groves in Kerala. Sri. K. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Devaswom Board inaugurated the programme through online. During the meeting, Hon'ble Minister announced the institution of a new award for the Best Sacredgrove in Kerala. Dr. Shyam Viswanath, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute delivered the keynote address on 'Role of Scientific institutes in the Conservation of Sacred groves'. In connection with the workshop, a Malayalam Handbook on "Sacred Groves: Treasure House of Biodiversity" was



Inauguration of Biodiversity Day by Hon'ble Minister Mr. K. Radhakrishnan

released by Dr. Shyam Viswanath by handing it over to Dr. V. Balakrishnan (former member secretary of KSBB). During the programme, action for the reintroduction of the critically endangered plant species named *Madhuca diplostemon* was initiated. This tree species, long believed to be extinct, has been rediscovered after a gap of more than 180 years from a sacred grove in Kollam district. It is a species of flowering plant from the family Sapotaceae, listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Saplings of the species were raised by a KSBB doctoral fellow after conducting rigorous research in this regard. A seedling of the species was handed over to the Smt. M.L. Rosy (Deputy Mayor, Thrissur). Saplings of *Madhuca diplostemon* were also distributed to other selected participants.

The inaugural function was graced by the presence of Shri. P.K. Davis Master (District Panchayath President, Thrissur), Dr. K. Satheeskumar (Member,

KSBB) and other distinguished guests, staff of KSBB, representatives from Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Postgraduate Students and other participants. Around 375 participants attended the one-day workshop. Dr. K.T. Chandramohan (Member KSBB) and Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar (Former Member secretary of KSBB) delivered felicitations and Dr. Vimalkumar C.S (Principal Scientific Officer) proposed vote of thanks.

Technical sessions on relevant areas such as 'Role of Scientific Institutes for conserving Sacred Groves,' 'Conservation of Sacred Groves: Role of Forest Department,' 'Sustainable Management Practices and role of University students for protection of Sacred Groves,' and 'Policy and Legal Framework for conserving Sacred groves' were carried out by eminent experts such as Dr. Shyam Viswanath, Shri. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS, Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar and Dr. V. Balakrishnan.

PBR updation campaign

State-level inauguration of the PBR updation campaign

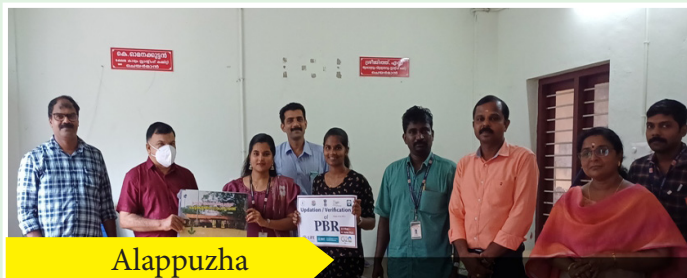
Kerala State Biodiversity Board conducted the State level inauguration of the Peoples Biodiversity Register verification/updation campaign on 23.05.2023 at Sahithya Academy Hall, Thrissur, Kerala. Around 125 participants including BMC Members, Standing Council Members, TSG members, subject experts, students etc attended the programme. The inaugural program was presided over by Dr. C. George Thomas, The chairman of KSBB. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble MLA, Sri. Murali Perunelly. Sri. K.V. Govindan, Dr. K. Satheeshkumar (Board members), Dr. Vimalkumar C.S. (Principal Scientific Officer) and Dr. Sudheesh N. (Scientific Officer) led technical sessions. The half-day programme included pledge-taking ceremony, technical sessions and release of brochures on PBR both in English and Malayalam.



State level Inauguration of PBR updation campaign at Thrissur

PBR updation campaign and IB Day

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) directed all SBBs to undertake a campaign on PBR updation in a total number of 10000 PBRs in the Country by undergraduate and Postgraduate students in subjects related to biodiversity. The campaign was a part of the celebration of International Biodiversity Day on May 22nd which started on May 23rd and ended on June 4th. The target given to KSBB was 200 PBRs and KSBB had successfully completed 227 PBR campaign programmes in the State. The photographs and videos with geo-tagging had been uploaded to the My Life app as directed by NBA.





Ernakulam



Thrissur



Idukki



Malappuram



Palakkad



Wayanad





Kannur



Kozhikode



Kasaragod



World Environment Day Celebrated

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board in association with the Department of Botany, University of Kerala celebrated the World Environment Day on 5th June 2023. Planting and conservation of rare and threatened plants at the biodiversity park of the Department of Botany was the main programme. The programme was inaugurated by planting *Madhuca diplostemon* at the biodiversity park of Dept. of Botany, in the presence of KSBB Board members Dr. K. Satheeshkumar, Dr. T.S. Swapna and Dr. E.A Siril who is the Head, Department of Botany, University of Kerala.

Madhuca diplostemon, locally known as ‘Kavilippa’ a highly threatened and IUCN red-listed plant coming under Sapotaceae family, is recently rediscovered from southern Kerala, after a gap of 180 years. The threatened plant of the Western ghats was believed to be extinct before its recent rediscovery. Scientists could locate only one mature tree from a sacred grove area of Kollam district. The individual tree invites the attention of the scientific world including conservationists.

As a result of the conservation efforts of the plant done by a PhD fellow, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, a few saplings from the mature plant could be produced. KSBB planted one sapling in the biopark area along with 15 other rare and endemic plants as part of World Environment Day.

Dr. K. Satheeshkumar offered the Environment day message. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vimalkumar C.S, Principal Scientific Officer,



Inauguration of world environment day celebration

Dr. Akhila S. Nair, Senior Research Officer, and Dr. Sreedharan K., Research Officer of KSBB. More than one hundred participants attended the programme including professors of Dept. of Botany Dr. Radhamany, Dr. Shiburaj, Dr. Suhara Beevi, Dr. Bindu; and Dr. Vilash of SN College Kollam and researchers and students of Department of Botany.

Naatumaampaatha workshop

The Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of Kozhikode District Panchayat organised a one-day workshop named “Naatumaampaatha ” on 30th May 2023 at Kozhikode Jilla Panchayat Auditorium in connection with the International Day for Biological Diversity 2023. Naatumaampaatha project intended to develop a theme-based fruit garden comprising various indigenous mango varieties. Earlier, the BMC collected approximately 2000 mango seeds/saplings from mango farmers and other stakeholders of Kerala. On 28th May 2023, the first set of 500 indigenous mango saplings was collected from Kuttiady BMC. Later the collected saplings/seeds were shifted to the Koothali farm of Kozhikode district Panchayath for further conservation. The official inauguration of “Naatumaampaatha” programme was done by Shri. Thottathil Raveendran, Hon’ble MLA of Kozhikode (N) constituency. The presidential address was given by the District panchayat president Smt. Sheeja Sasi. 140 participants including BMC Presidents, BMC convenors and other LSG representatives from Kozhikode district actively participated in the programme. Technical sessions on ‘Diversity in indigenous mango trees: its relevance and management’ and ‘PBR updation (Vol II)- its relevance and applications’ were carried out by Mr Shyju Machathi, a Plant Genome Saviour Award winner and Dr. K. Kishore Kumar (Technical Support Group member, Kozhikode) respectively. The programme started with a welcome address by Shri. M. P. Sivanandan, the Vice president of Kozhikode District Panchayath, and concluded with the formal Vote of thanks delivered by Smt. Manju. K.P. the district co-ordinator of Kerala State Biodiversity Board.



Inauguration of Naatumaampaatha by Shri. Thottathil Raveendran MLA

Release of updated PBR

Kadalundy grama panchayat in Kozhikode district achieved the historical record of being the first BMC in the State that could release the updated People’s Biodiversity Register (volume II) (PBR-II). The Updated PBR was released on 10th June 2023 by the Hon’ble Minister of PWD and Tourism, Adv. P.A. Mohamed Riyas at the biodiversity-rich premise of Kadalundy-Vallikkunnu Community Reserve. Hon’ble minister in his inaugural speech appreciated the Kadalundy grama panchayat and all the people who had worked hard for the updation of PBR. The minister handed over the PBR to Sri. K. V. Govindan, the Board member of Kerala State Biodiversity Board. The minister awarded tokens of appreciation of Kadalundy BMC to Dr. K. Kishore Kumar (TSG member), Mr. Gopalakrishnan M. (BMC convenor), and Smt. Manju K.P., (the district coordinator, KSBB) for their efforts in the successful completion of the updation of PBR. Certificates to the volunteers were also distributed by the minister. The event was presided over by Smt. Anusha. V. the BMC President. Shri. K. V. Govindan, the board member of KSBB delivered the Keynote address. Smt. Sajitha Pookkaadan was the Chief Guest of the program. Smt. Bindhu Pachat, Development St. Committee chairperson and Smt. Sathi Devi, a member of Kadalundy grama panchayat offered the Welcome and Vote of thanks respectively.



Release of updated PBR by Hon. Minister Mr. Mohammed Riyaz

Bedakam Coconut Conservation Project Inaugurated

Inauguration of 'Bedakam Coconut Conservation and Utilization', an Ecosystem Restoration Project funded by Kerala State Biodiversity Board was held at Molothum Kavu in Bedaduka on World Environment Day (05/06/2023). Bedakam coconut is a local ecotype of coconut which is tall-growing and yields satisfactorily even under rain-fed situations and water-scarce areas. This ecotype adapted to non-intensive agriculture is a suitable candidate for cultivation under the agroecology system and also for mitigating climate change challenges. The major components of the scheme include facilitating the formation of a society of farmers cultivating Bedakam coconut, identification and documentation of mother palms of the Bedakam Coconut in farmers' gardens, collection of seed nuts, and raising nurseries in selected locations in the grama panchayath and making available quality seedlings of the variety to distribute to farmers.

Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, KSBB inaugurated the project by distributing Bedakam coconut saplings to farmers. Bedaduka Panchayath President Mrs. Dhanya Presided over the function. Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, CPCRI delivered the keynote address. Agriculture Officer Dr. Praveen made a presentation on the Bedakam Coconut Project. Grama Panchayath Secretary Mr. Sajjad A S Welcomed the audience and Biodiversity Board District Coordinator Mrs. Akhila V. M expressed a vote of thanks at the function. Bedaduka BMC arranged an exhibition of medicinal plants on the occasion.



Dr. C. George Thomas, The Chairman of KSBB inaugurating the Bedakam Coconut conservation project

Monthly online training series for Biodiversity clubs

Kerala State Biodiversity Board has initiated several steps to strengthen the registered Biodiversity clubs of the state. Both technical and financial support is also provided to selected biodiversity clubs. As part of the capacity-building programs for Biodiversity clubs, Kerala State Biodiversity Board started a year-long monthly online training series. Inauguration of the programme was conducted on 3/06/2023 by Dr. C. George Thomas, the Chairman. Followed by the inauguration, the first training session of the series on the topic "The goals and responsibilities of Biodiversity clubs" was carried out by Mr. K.V. Govindan, the board member. The role of teachers and the young generation in biodiversity conservation was stressed by the speaker during the session. Teacher coordinators of selected biodiversity clubs actively participated in the session. Dr. C.S. Vimal Kumar welcomed the participants and Dr. Akhila S. Nair proposed a vote of Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. C. George Thomas

MEMBER SECRETARY (i/c)

Smt. Mini V.

KSBB MEMBERS

1. **Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment Department**
2. **Agriculture Production Commissioner**
3. **Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department**
4. **Principal Secretary, Forest and wildlife Department**
5. **Executive Vice President, KSCSTE**
6. **Dr. K. Satheesh Kumar**
7. **Sri. K.V. Govindan**
8. **Dr. T.S. Swapna**
9. **Dr. K.T. Chandramohan**
10. **Sri. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS**

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