



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

EKAA

Environment. Kerala. Awareness. Action
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2nd KSBC

WORKSHOP

WRITE-SHOP

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2nd Kerala State Biodiversity Congress (2nd KSBC) 2023

Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) successfully conducted the 2nd State Biodiversity Congress in collaboration with Government Arts and Science College (GASC), Kozhikode from 18th to 20th February 2023. The theme of the 2nd KSBC was 'Biodiversity and livelihood'. The 2nd KSBC included different programmes such as State Biodiversity Conservation Awards distribution, Biodiversity exhibition, Workshop of the Local Self Government

Bodies on "Women empowerment and biodiversity conservation", Technical Support Group Meet, Biodiversity Management Committee Meet, 15th Children's Biodiversity Congress and Custodian Farmers Meet. Sustainable management of bioresources is much needed for countries like India, where biodiversity is directly linked with providing livelihoods to and improving socio-economic conditions of millions of local people, thereby contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Its continuing depletion, largely because of human activities, including over consumptive lifestyles should therefore be a concern.

Kerala is having a variety of ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems which harbour our unique biodiversity richness. Recent analysis shows that over 150 species of plants that are either indigenous or naturalized in Kerala are used in the Indian system of Medicine like Ayurveda and Sidha. The rural folk and tribal communities



Inauguration of 2nd KSBC by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

make use of about 2,000 species of lesser-known wild plants for various medicinal uses and about 60 to 65% of plants required for Ayurvedic medicine and almost 80% of plants used in Sidha medicine are found in the forests of Kerala. Similarly, the aquatic biodiversity and fish wealth of Kerala sustain more than 10 lakh fisherfolk and supports numerous additional activities including commercial fishing, aquaculture, tourism, education, recreation etc. In addition to these two sectors, there are numerous sectors utilizing bioresources in a huge amount. Moreover, there are many traditional communities depend bioresources for their livelihood. These activities altogether will surely lead to loss of biodiversity if we don't follow the sustainable utilization. The 2018 flood happened in Kerala had destroyed the biodiversity in a huge manner evidenced by the studies conducted by KSBB. Hence, it's high time that we should focus on the sustainable utilization of the bioresources for the livelihood security. Thus, the present 2nd KSBC as

aimed to make people aware about the importance of biodiversity for their livelihood, and need for

conserving it for providing livelihood security to the future generations.

The programs under the 2nd KSBC

Formation of organizing committee

As a first step, KSBB had constituted an Organizing committee with Mayor, Kozhikode Corporation as the Chairperson, and Chairman KSBB and Principal, GASC Kozhikode as Vice Chairpersons and other representatives from college and Board members as members of this organizing committee in various roles. The local publicity programmes were conducted in the Kozhikode city by the Organizing committee.



2nd KSBC-Proclamation rally flagged off

Inauguration of 2nd Kerala State Biodiversity Congress 2023



Inauguration of 2nd KSBC

The programme was inaugurated by Shri. **Pinarayi Vijayan**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on 19/02/2023 and the function was presided over by Shri. Ahammed Devarkovil, Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Museums and Archaeology. The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, KSBB. During the presidential address, Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Museums and Archaeology mentioned the importance of biodiversity in this era of climate change and the urgent need for its conservation. In the inaugural address, Hon'ble Chief

Minister pointed out the importance of conservation of biodiversity and the mutual dependence of biodiversity and livelihood security. He stated that various projects taken up by KSBB such as RKI project on tradable bioresources, on agro biodiversity and on Pampa river biodiversity rejuvenation should be a model for other line departments and LSGDs for conserving our biodiversity. He reminded that there are still numerous underutilized bioresources available in our State which can create numerous livelihood resources. He also specified that due to scarcity of specific bioresources like Pandanus, reeds etc, many of the rural communities are forced to stop their traditional works, hence, all the local bodies should support biodiversity conservation which will ensure the livelihood security. Shri. P. A. Mohamed Riyas, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Tourism, delivered the key note address. In his speech Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Tourism mentioned that biodiversity is the back bone of our existence and development and consider biodiversity as a mandate of this Government. Kerala government is under the process of developing a design policy for



Shri P.A. Mohamed Riyas



Shri. Ahammed Devarkovil



Dr. C. George Thomas



Shri.K.V. Govindan



the state which will definitely include biodiversity as its one major part. He also told that this Government is planning to introduce a biodiversity circuit in the Lake Ashtamudi, which will enhance the development of tourism sector. As a part of the inaugural session, Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed KSBB biodiversity conservation awards 2021-22. Following this, the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) and reports on RKI Agro biodiversity Project and a book entitled '*Conservation and Sustainable utilization of Bioresources*' authored by Dr. Swapna T. S. and Dr. Keerthi T. were released by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala. A video prepared by KSBB on the importance of Sea Turtle conservation is also released in the function by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Tourism. The vote of thanks for the inaugural programme was proposed by Shri. K.V. Govindan, Board Member, KSBB.



Glimpses of Inauguration of 2nd KSBC



2nd KSBC

Biodiversity Exhibition

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board organised "Jaivavaividhya Pradarshanam" from 18th to 20th February 2023 at Government Arts and Science College, Kozhikode as a part of Kerala State Biodiversity Congress 2023. It was a unique exhibition focusing on the different dimensions of biodiversity, beautified with 120 different stalls showcasing traditional seed varieties, tubers, vegetables, fruits, products related to traditional arts and cultural expressions, medicinal plants, mushroom products and spawn, value added products, crafts items, ancient agriculture implements, ethnic foods, eco-friendly products, GI tagged products of Kerala, native fishes, books related to biodiversity, etc. Panels and photographs displayed in the stalls showed stunning diversity of flora and fauna of the State. To spread the message of "International Year of Millets 2023", special stalls with different types of millets, its value added products and live demonstration of preparation of millets based healthy and nutritious products were also arranged to create awareness and increase production and consumption of millets. The exhibition was inaugurated on February 18th 2023 by Sri. A. K. Saseendran, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Wildlife. Representatives of Government and Non-governmental organisations, Biodiversity Management Committees, traditional farmers, craftsmen and researchers participated and the exhibition became a good platform for bringing together different stakeholders who are directly or indirectly engaged in biodiversity conservation. The participants were honoured on the valedictory function of the biodiversity

congress by providing prizes for the best stalls and also participation certificates. As part of the exhibition, cultural programmes were also organised and it included biodiversity awareness through magic, mime, dance, songs, etc. Many dignitaries visited the exhibition and mentioned that the exhibition is very informative and excellent. The exhibition was highly appreciated by visitors as well as the media for being very informative and helped in creating awareness regarding conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity.



Inauguration of Biodiversity exhibition by Shri. A.K. Saseendran, Hon'ble minister for forest and wildlife

Women empowerment through Biodiversity Conservation and livelihood enhancement

A special program on “Women empowerment through Biodiversity Conservation and livelihood enhancement” was organized as part of KSBC 2023 in a workshop mode. Gender equality, women’s empowerment, and biodiversity conservation are central issues to achieve sustainable development goals. Women are mostly under-represented in the conservation world although they play a key role in maintaining the diversity of local food systems and maintaining homestead biodiversity. The workshop aimed to recognize the role of women in biodiversity conservation and livelihood. The workshop was inaugurated by Smt. P Sathidevi, Chairperson, Kerala Vanitha Commission, followed by special address by Dr. Usha Titus, IAS, Chairperson, ASAP and Dr. VPP Mustafa, PA to Hon. Minister LSG. The meet also included technical sessions for experience sharing by six successful women entrepreneurs which was moderated by Shri. KV. Govindan, Member, KSBB.



Inauguration of women empowerment workshop by Smt. P. Sathidevi, Chairperson, Kerala Vanitha Commission

Technical support Group Meet

A regional meet of the Technical support Group (TSG) members was organized on 19.02.2023. In this regional meet, TSG members from Palakkad, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Wayand, Kannur and Kasargode districts and Range Forest officers from the North Circle participated. The inauguration was by Shri. K.V. Govindan, Board Member KSBB. Dr. K.T. Chandramohanan, Board Member KSBB delivered presidential address. This was followed by the technical sessions which included invited talks by subject experts. First technical session was handled by Dr. R.V. Varma, Former Chairman, KSBB and in his speech, Dr. Varma explained the “*Salient features of Biodiversity Act 2002*” and the roles and responsibilities of TSG members.



Dr. K.T. Chandramohanan, Board member KSBB, delivering presidential address during the TSG meet

He also highlighted the importance of collaboration of TSG members with BMCs for better biodiversity conservation activities and the importance of People’s Biodiversity Register, activities of BMCs and biodiversity act and rule. Being the Chairman of the Expert Committee on ABS constituted by NBA, he shared his experiences with ABS activities in India which was indeed an eye opening speech for the audience. This was followed by the speech by Dr. Dinesan Cheruvat (Additional director of Fisheries, MD of Matsyafed) on the topic, “*Potential Threats by Invasive Alien fishes to endemic fish fauna of Kerala*”. Dr. Cheruvat explained the devastating effects of invasive fish species in the fish biodiversity of Kerala by giving specific examples of Rainbow trout, Common Carp, Golden carp, Tilapia etc. He also explained the actions taken by the Govt. of India and legal regulations such as ‘Kerala Inland fisheries and aqua culture act 2010’, ‘Kerala fish seed act 2014’ etc which are very relevant to the current topic.

Dr. Vani Kesari (Director, Prof. N R Madhava Menon ICREP, Former Director, School of Legal Studies, CUSAT) presented a paper on the topic “*Relevance of Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) System*”. She gave information on the connection of bio theft and bio piracy to ABS and also explained how these activities will adversely affect the biodiversity. She also explained the various sections and sub sections of Biodiversity Act 2002 regulating utilization of bioresources for research purposes by Indian researchers.

After the technical sessions, TSG members shared their experiences and raised their suggestions to make the TSG system more effective. They generally suggested that more orientation programmes are necessary for the empowerment of TSGs and suggested that biodiversity clubs should be linked with BMCs for more effective activities. Following this, Dr. V Balakrishnan (Kasargod Vigilance DySp) and Mr. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS (Head, vigilance wing of Kerala Forest Department and additional principal chief conservator of Forests) expressed their views and replied to the comments raised by TSG members. They mentioned that the prime responsibility of the TSG members is the development/timely updating and digitalization of PBRs in all the local bodies. They also gave the suggestion to constitute TSG members in BMC level to ensure the maximum effectiveness. They mentioned that being the officers responsible for taking legal action as per the Biodiversity Act, Range Forest Officers (RFOs) should have to be pro active and support BMCs in the various biodiversity conservation activities. They also explained the importance of local biodiversity funds and mentioned that TSG can be empowered only by empowering BMCs. The meet concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Abdul Riyas (Associate Professor and TSG member of Calicut). Around 40 members including 25 TSG members attended the TSG meet programme.

Custodian farmers meet:

As part of Kerala State Biodiversity Congress, a “*Custodian Farmers Meet*” was conducted on 19/02/2023. This meet focused on the role of Custodian Farmers in Agrobiodiversity conservation. The Inaugural session was presided over by Dr.C.George Thomas, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board and the welcome speech offered by Shri. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS, Member, Kerala State Biodiversity Board. Followed by the inaugural

session, there were technical sessions conducted. During the technical sessions, Dr.K.Satheesh Kumar, Member, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Dr. Joseph John, Former Scientist, NBPGR, Dr.C.R.Elsy, Former Professor and Coordinator, IPR Cell, KAU, Dr. T. K. Hrideek, CEO, State Medicinal Plant Board delivered lectures on pertaining topics such as Genetics Protection for a better future, Importance of plant genetic diversity, Intellectual property rights, Medicinal plants Cultivation-Opportunities and Challenges, Role of Local Self Government Department in Conservation of Agrobiodiversity respectively. Sri K.V. Govindan, Member KSBB also interacted with the participants. After the technical sessions, selected Custodian Farmers of 8 districts shared their experiences. The session was moderated by Dr.C.K Peethambaran, Former Director of Research, KAU.



Technical session by Dr. C.R. Elsy

The Custodian Farmers voiced their concerns on the challenges they have faced due to climate change and the unscientific introduction of plants, animals, birds and fishes to the state. The farmers also suggested for the establishment of farmschools in the remaining six districts and to develop a comprehensive agrobiodiversity data base of the State. The workshop was concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr.Vimal Kumar C.S, Principal Scientific Officer, Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

BMC Meet

Along with the biodiversity congress, a BMC Meet was conducted on 20th February. The programme was meant exclusively for the Chairpersons, Secretaries and Convenors of BMCs constituted at local bodies. KSBB invited all the BMCs from Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur & Kasaragod districts and selected BMCs from the rest of the ten districts which included the BMCs undertaking KSBB aided local biodiversity conservation activities and preparation of local biodiversity action plan and also the BMCs which



Release of Guidelines for the preparation of PBR (2nd volume)

have kept fund for PBR updation. The programme was organized for giving awareness among the BMCs for undertaking sustainable development projects by considering the local situations of environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, to equip them for facing the challenges of climate change at local level and to find out the scope for undertaking locally specific biodiversity conservation projects through sharing experiences and case studies of other BMCs. A total of 390 persons from 185 BMCs participated in the BMC Meet.

15th Children's Biodiversity Congress (CBC)

The fifteenth Children's Biodiversity congress was conducted on 20th February 2023. 'Biodiversity and future of human beings' was the main theme of the 15th children's biodiversity congress. There were three invited talks during the inaugural session offered by Dr. Manoj P. Samuel (Director, CWRDM, Kozhikode), Dr. T.S.



CBC prize winners receiving prizes from Padmashree M.C. Dathan

Swapna (Board Member, KSBB) and Dr. Retheesh Krishna (Assistant Professor, Govt. College, Karyavattom) on significant topics related to Biodiversity conservation and future generations. The program was presided over by Mr. Pramod G. Krishnan I.F.S. (Board member, KSBB) and greeted by Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar (Member Secretary, KSBB). Dr. Sudheesh N. (Scientific Officer, KSBB) welcomed the audience and Mrs. Mini V. (Administrative Officer, KSBB) proposed the formal vote of thanks. Followed by the inaugural session, senior and junior category Project presentation competitions conducted for selected students across the state. More than 120 students from all the districts participated in the event. The winners of the competitions were awarded with memento and certificates during the valedictory session of 2nd Kerala State Biodiversity Congress. Prize distribution to winners of other state level competitions such as essay writing, painting, pencil drawing and online photography also carried out during the concluding session of the Kerala State Biodiversity Congress 2023.

Kerala State Biodiversity Conservation Award 2021-2022

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board announced the prestigious Kerala State Biodiversity Conservation Award for the year 2021–2022. The main goal of this award is to recognize individuals, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and members of the press / media for their efforts to protect biodiversity and environment. The awards were given in 10 categories. Haritha Vyakthi, Best Custodian Farmer (Plants), Best Custodian Farmer (Animal/Bird), Best Journalist, Best Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Best Biodiversity Conservation School, Best Biodiversity Conservation College, Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Government, Co-operative Sector, Public Sector) and Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Private Sector) are the major categories for the awards. The hon'ble chief minister of Kerala Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan distributed the awards to the winners during the inaugural function of KSBC.



Distribution of Biodiversity awards by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon. Chief minister of Kerala

The award winners and Category

Name of the Award	Name of institution /Awardees
Haritha Vyakthi	Mr. K.G. Ramesh, Alappuzha
Haritha Vyakthi (Consolation Prize)	Mr. Nandakumar P.M.
Best Custodian Farmer (Plants) - Male	Mr. A Balakrishnan, Wayanad
	Mr. Saifulla P., Malappuram
Best Custodian Farmer (Plants) - (Consolation Prize)	Mr. Anilkumar P.S
Best Custodian Farmer (Plants) - Female	Smt. Indira R., Kozhikode
	Smt. Indira Lawrence, Thrissur
Best Custodian Farmer (Animal)	Mr. Hari V., Kottayam
Best Journalist	Mr. M.B. Santhosh, Associate Editor, Metrovartha daily newspaper, Trivandrum
Best Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)	Eramam Kuttur Grama Panchayat, Kannur
	Kankol – Alappadamba, Grama Panchayath, Kannur
Best Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) - Consolation Prize	Akathethara Grama Panchayath, Palakkad and Kadirur Grama Panchayath, Kannur
Best Biodiversity Conservation School	V.M.H.M.A.L.P. School, Malappuram
	Govt. Tribal U.P. School, Pathippally, Idukki
Best Biodiversity Conservation College	Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur
Best Biodiversity Conservation College (Consolation Prize)	Bishop Moore College, Alappuzha
Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Government, Co-operative Sector, Public Sector)	Cochin University Of Science And Technology, CUSAT
Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Private Sector)	Green Ahalya, Ahalya International Foundation, Palakkad
Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Private Sector)	Tata Consultancy Services, Kerala

Valedictory function:

The Valedictory function was organized at 4 pm onwards on 20.02.2023. The function was inaugurated by Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, KSBB and the chief guest was Padmashree M.C. Dathan, Scientific advisor to the Chief Minister. The certificates and mementos to CBC winners and best exhibition stalls were distributed by the chief guest Padmashree M.C. Dathan. The function was concluded after the vote of thanks by Dr. A.V Santhosh Kumar, Member Secretary, KSBB.



Valedictory session of 2nd KSBC

Workshop on Capacity Building for Implementation of Biodiversity Acts and rules



Participants of the workshop

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is an important concept of Biodiversity management around the globe. India being a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol is bound to share the benefits of profit accrued from commercial utilisation of Bioresources as per the protocol. The State Biodiversity Board has estimated that an amount of Rs.100 crores is collectable as ABS from the various manufacturing sectors who commercially exploit biodiversity of the State. The Board is in the process of initiating steps to ensure compliance to the ABS rules in the State. In this regard, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) with the financial support of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) organized a two day workshop on Capacity Building for Implementation of Biodiversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 and State Rules 2008, held at IMG conference Hall, Trivandrum on 27.02.2023 and 28.02.2023.



Inauguration of the workshop was done by Shri. Puneet Kumar IAS

A capacity building programme was conducted on 27/02/2023 at IMG, Thiruvananthapuram for Government Officials from various departments/institutes/ LSGs etc directly or indirectly dealing with Biodiversity. The programme started with the welcome speech by Dr. A. V. Santhoshkumar, Member Secretary, KSBB and the inauguration of the workshop was done by Shri. Puneet Kumar IAS, Member Secretary, Kerala State Planning Board. The technical sessions were handled by Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman KSBB, Shri. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS, member of KSBB and

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri. K. V. Govindan, Member KSBB, Dr.R.V. Varma, Former chairman, KSBB, Dr.V.Balakrishnan, DySP, Kasargode, and Former member Secretary of KSBB, Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar, Member Secretary of KSBB, on topics “*Convention on Biological Diversity and biological Diversity act 2002 and Rules 2004*”, “*Role of Forest Officers in implementing BD Act*”, “*TSG and Biodiversity Conservation at local level*”, “*Access to Bioresources and Benefit Sharing*”, “*Role of Researchers and line Department in ensuring compliance with Biological Diversity Act*”, and “*Implementation of SBSAP and need for convergence*” respectively. The technical session was followed by group discussion with the participants on various topics like Sharing of Biodiversity Data, IPR and ABS, PBR updation, ePBR, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Regulation of unauthorized collection of resources for commercial uses and Empowering BMC. The participants came out with their views and suggestions on various topics. The sessions were moderated by the board members of KSBB Dr.K.Satheesh Kumar, Dr. T.S.Swapna, and Dr.K.T.Chandramohan. The workshop concluded with vote of thanks by Dr.Vimalkumar CS, Principal Scientific Officer, KSBB.



Technical session by Shri.K.V.Govindan, Member, KSBB

Another capacity building Workshop was conducted on 28/02/2023 for Government Officials of LSGD, District Planning Officers, District Panchayath Secretaries, District Panchayth Presidents, District

Assistant Development Commissioners, State Resource Group Members and District Level Officials of Departments. The workshop started with the welcome speech by Dr. T.S.Swapna, Member, KSBB which was presided by Smt. P. P Divya, President, Kannur District Panchayath and the inauguration was by Dr. Jiju P Alex, Member, Kerala State Planning Board.



Technical session by Dr. Jiju P Alex, Member, KSPB

The technical sessions were handled by Shri. K.V Govindan, Member, KSBB, Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar, Member Secretary, KSBB, Dr. R V Varma, Former Chairman, KSBB, Dr. S. Rajasekharan, Former Director Grade Scientist and head, JNTBGRI on topics “*Biodiversity Conservation and Local Action Plan*”, “*Biological Diversity Act and Local governments*”, “*Examples of ABS Models at National level*” and “*Kani Model of ABS*” respectively. This was followed by a group discussion with the participants on the topics, Scope of ABS, Levi collection for commercially used bioresources, Strengthening of BMC’s, involving service of TSG into BMC’s and the activities of District Biodiversity Conservation Committees, and LBSAP preparation, PBR 2nd volume preparation, e-PBR preparation, selection of Biodiversity Heritage Sites,

Farm schools, Biodiversity clubs and Biodiversity knowledge centres. The participants were divided into three groups and shared their views and suggestions on various topics mentioned above. The sessions were moderated by Sri.VinodKumar Kodakal, Additional Private Secretary to LSGD Minister, Shri. K. V. Govindan, Member KSBB, Dr.K.Satheesh Kumar, Member, KSBB. The workshop was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. N Sudheesh, Scientific Officer, KSBB.



Technical session Sri.VinodKumar Kodakal, Additional Private Secretary to LSGD Minister



Dr. C. George Thomas



Dr. A.V.Santhoshkumar



Dr. T.S.Swapna



Smt. P. P Divya



Dr.K.T.Chandramohan



Shri.Pramod G. Krishnan IFS

Training on PBR 2nd Volume

KSBB had successfully prepared People Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in all the gramapanchayats, corporations and municipalities in Kerala State. However, most of them are at least 5-8 years old and in these gap years, Kerala State faced many changes in its biodiversity due to various reasons like climate change, 2018 flood, invasive species in various ecosystems etc. Moreover, many PBRs lack scientific names and information on the Traditional knowledge of biodiversity. Hence, considering all these, KSBB came to the conclusion that there are many areas in PBRs which need addition/deletion for which KSBB had proposed a second volume of PBRs. KSBB had prepared a detailed methodology for the preparation of the second volume of PBRs through interactions/workshops with stakeholders, experts, BMC representatives etc. KSBB had provided State level workshops for the selected BMCs in Thiruvananthapuram on 20.09.2022. As soon as the methodology was finalised, KSBB gave three regional training workshops for the 122 BMCs who have included projects on PBR updation in their annual plan 2022-23. The regional training programmes were conducted at Thrissur (17.01.2023), Thiruvananthapuram (18.02.2023) and Kozhikode (16.03.2023). The preparation of second volume of PBRs is progressing in the concerned BMCs.



Glimpses of PBR training

Training for Biodiversity clubs

Kerala State Biodiversity Board has selected 130 active biodiversity clubs across Kerala for financial support during 2022-2023. In order to strengthen the activities of biodiversity clubs, Kerala State Biodiversity board has organized three regional level workshops for the selected biodiversity clubs at Kozhikode (13/01/2023), Thrissur (2/02/2023) and Thiruvananthapuram (8/03/2023). Teacher coordinators of the 130 Biodiversity clubs and district coordinators of Kerala State Biodiversity Board participated in the workshops. The northern regional Biodiversity club training at Kozhikode was inaugurated by Sri. K. V. Govindan (Board member, KSBB). The central regional workshop conducted at Thrissur was inaugurated by by Smt. Latha Chandran, Vice President of Thrissur District Panchayath. Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board inaugurated the southern regional workshop conducted at Thiruvananthapuram. Sri. K. V. Govindan (Board member, KSBB), Dr. K. Satheesh kumar (Board member, KSBB) and Dr. Akhila S. Nair (Senior Research officer, KSBB) took technical sessions during the regional workshops. Followed by



Participants of regional workshop @ Thrissur



Participants of regional workshop @ Kozhikode

the technical sessions, there were group discussions and interactive sessions. Promising biodiversity club activities presented by teacher coordinators representing each district also carried out as part of the workshops. Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar, Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board offered concluding remarks about the 3 regional workshops during the southern regional training program conducted at Thiruvananthapuram on 08/03/2023.



Participants of regional workshop @ Thiruvananthapuram



Group discussion at Thiruvananthapuram

Traditional Knowledge

A one day write-shop on “Traditional Knowledge” (TK) was conducted by Kerala State Biodiversity Board and Vattavada Grama Panchayath BMC on 25/01/2023 at Vattavada Gram Panchayath Community Hall. Discussions were held on the importance of protection of TK with the support of BMCs. The event was attended by TK holders, traditional farmers, traditional healers, representatives of the local self-governments and the general public. The inaugural session began with a welcome speech by Dr. Santhoshkumar AV, Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board. He explained the functions of the Kerala Biodiversity Board in conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity of the State and the role of BMCs in it. The inaugural function was presided over by Mrs. Ganapathiammal B, President, Vattavada Grama Panchayat and Dr C. George Thomas, Chairman, KSBB inaugurated the write-shop. He spoke about the impact of climate change on agriculture of the State and the activities of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board. Shri K V Govindan, Member, KSBB released the Gramapanchayat level Traditional knowledge document and gave a detailed class on the importance of TK and the need to preserve it. Later, Kerala State Biodiversity Board Member Dr. K Satheesh Kumar explained about the relevance of the protection of bio-resources of the Vattavada Gramapanchayath.



Release of Traditional Knowledge document by Shri. K.V. Govindan

Several dignitaries, including Mr. MV Sunilkumar, President, Kangkol-Alappadamba Panchayath, Kannur, Mr. Sudarshan AS, President, Purakkad Panchayath, Alappuzha District, Mr. Pradeep Master, President, Idawaka Panchayath, Wayanad District, spoke on the occasion. After the opening ceremony, the attendees were divided into three groups, based on the three themes Kaadariv, Nattarivu, and Krishiarivu, for group discussions. The discussions were actively held, and the ideas derived from the group discussion were summarised in a report by Dr. Vimal Kumar CS, PSO, KSBB. Mrs. Aswathi VS, District Coordinator, KSBB, Idukki thanked the attendees at the end of the event. As part of the program, an exhibition of local vegetables and fruits of Vattavada was held. The exhibition showcased the unique produce of the region including GI tagged Garlic, which reflected the area's biodiversity. Later in the day, there was a presentation of the unique art forms of Vattavada such as Kuzhalattam, Nadanpattu, Vattapattu, etc. These art forms are an integral part of the region's culture and depict the local biodiversity.

International Days Observed

(International Day of Forests, World Water Day and World Meteorological day)

Under the auspices of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, a series of lectures were organized to commemorate International Day of Forests, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day on March 21st, March 22nd and March 23rd respectively. Dr. A. V. Raghu, Principal Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Thrissur, Dr. Manoj P. Samuel, Executive Director, Centre for Water Resources Development and Management and Dr. Shalini Pillai, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Kerala Agriculture University delivered lectures on related topics.

Dr. A.V. Raghu, delivered a lecture on “*Forests and Health – Healthy Forest for Healthy People*” in connection with the International Day of Forests 2023.

As part of World Water Day 2023, **Dr. Manoj P. Samuel** offered a lecture on ‘*Accelerating Change to Solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis*’.

On the World Meteorological Day, **Dr. Shalini Pillai P.** offered a presentation on “*The Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations*”.

All the three invited speakers specified the need to address climate change and global warming in order to sustain the future of our planet. Scientists from various Research and Development Centres, Professors and Researchers from different universities in Kerala, representatives of Biodiversity Management Committees and Biodiversity clubs, Officials, District Coordinators and Technical Support Group members of Biodiversity Board actively participated in the lecture series. Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman Kerala State Biodiversity Board delivered the welcome address. Dr. C. S. Vimalkumar (Principal Scientific Officer), Dr. Sudheesh N. (Scientific Officer), Dr. Akhila S. Nair (Senior Research Officer) and Dr. K. Sreedharan (Research Officer) led the programme. Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar, Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board delivered vote of thanks.



CHAIRPERSON

Dr. C. George Thomas

MEMBER SECRETARY

Dr. A.V. Santhoshkumar

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. Chandramohanam
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