

REPORT ON THE TRAINING ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002
(12th and 13th March 2015)
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, on 12th and 13th March 2015. The training was sponsored by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai.

During the Inaugural Function on 12.3.2013, Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme, welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the programme. Shri R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB presided over the function. Shri P.N. Unnikrishnan, IFS (Retd), former Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kerala Forest Department and former Group Co-ordinator (Research) & Director of IFGTB inaugurated the training programme. During his inaugural address, he highlighted the paradigm shift in Forestry Sector from production oriented approach to conservation oriented functioning, over a period of time. He also emphasized the need for following participatory management approach, by giving due importance to the welfare of forest dependent/ dwelling communities. Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-E & Head, Biodiversity Division proposed vote of thanks.

A total number of 30 participants consisting of faculty, scientists and research scholars working in various universities/ colleges/ research institutions located in Tamil Nadu and Kerala attended the training.

The following six lecture sessions were conducted during the training programme:-

1. Overview of Biological Diversity of India
2. Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004
3. Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing
4. Intellectual Property Rights on Biological Diversity
5. Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register

6. Traditional Knowledge with Reference to Medicinal Plants among Irular Tribes of Ariylaur District, Tamil Nadu

A field visit to the tribal settlement at Singapathy, located in the foot hill of Siruvani was also conducted on 13th March 2015, for interacting with the tribal people, on their traditional use of biological resources.

The participants were divided in to three groups and each group was assigned the following topics: Group-1: Access and benefit sharing; Group-2: Geographical Indications and Group-3: Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register, for group discussion. The participants interacted well with the resource persons and among themselves during the training programme. They appreciated the training, and pointed out that it gave them insights into the legal modalities while handling of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. They also suggested to extend the duration of the training programme to three days in future.

The Valedictory Function was conducted in the evening on 13.3.2015. 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. Shri R. S. Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB presided over the function. Dr. K. Murugan, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology & Addl. Director, DRDO-BU Centre for Life Sciences, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore delivered the valedictory address. He gave an overview of the research activities undertaken in the DRDO-Bharathiar University Centre for Life Sciences. Dr. K. R. Sasidharan, Scientist-E & Co-ordinator of the training programme proposed vote of thanks.



Inauguration of the training programme



Release of training manual



Presidential Address by Shri R.S.Prashanth, IFS, Director, IFGTB



Shri P.N. Unnikrishnan, IFS (Retd), former Addl.PCCF delivering Inaugural Address



A lecture session during the training



Valedictory Function



**Dr. K. Murugan, Professor & Head, Dept. of Zoology, Bharathiar University
delivering Valedictory Address**



Certificate distribution by Chief Guest



Field visit of participants to Siruvani foot hill



Field visit of participants to Siruvani foot hill



**Participants interacting with Irular Tribes of Singapathy, on
Traditional Knowledge**