

International Day for Biological Diversity – IDB 2019 (May 22, 2019)

The G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD) celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) under the theme, "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" at various localities across the Indian Himalayan region through its HQs at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora and the four regional Centers (Garhwal Regional Center, Srinagar; Himachal Regional Center, Kullu; Sikkim Regional Center, Pangthang, and Northeast Regional Center, Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh).



In addition the Institute also participated and showcased the R&D accomplishments in biodiversity conservation through posters and videos based on the R&D work highlighting the importance of mountain biodiversity in the national level event organized by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chepauk, Chennai. Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India inaugurated the function. In his address Hon'ble Vice President said that Biodiversity is fundamental to the survival of the human race and human being must re-establish the link with nature like our ancestors. Shri. Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary - MoEFCC & Chairman, NBA welcomed the audience and provided the importance of biodiversity in India. The Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Shri H. R. Verma, the Principal Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Shri S. Kallollikar, the Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Dr. P. Ramachandran and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The GBPNIHESD stall was visited by over 400 visitors.



At the Institute HQs one day programme at Nature Interpretation and Learning Centre (NILC) was organized wherein 32 students (12 boys and 20 girls) and 6 teachers from six different schools of Almora district, Uttarakhand participated. The programme began with an address by Dr. R.S. Rawal, Director GBPNIHESD and the Chief Guest of the function Dr. B.S.

Kalakoti explaining why the engagement of young students is important for biodiversity conservation and management. Field based demonstrations and presentations of modules related to biodiversity value i.e. importance of traditional food, nutritional composition of traditional and modern (fast) food, wild edibles and livelihood, herbal spices, role of traditional agro-diversity, importance of medicinal plants, organic farming were made. An exhibition by students was also made on this occasion. **IDB was celebrated at R&D field sites of the Institute** such as Sri Narayan Ashram, Chaudas (Pithoragarh) and at the Institute of Biotechnology, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Patwadangar (Distt. Nainital). At the Sri Narayan Ashram 60 local farmers, 41 students and 2 teachers of Chaudas valley participated in the event. The main focus was given on the wild edibles and medicinal and aromatic herbs diversity of the area and their cultivation practices.

At the Institute of Biotechnology, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Patwadangar (Distt. Nainital) two day (22-23 May 2019) event was organized for 25 employees of Research Wing of the State Forest Deptt., Uttarakhand and reserchers of the regional Universities with a focus on Long- Term Ecological Monitoring (LTEM) of forest diversity. Inaugurating the Workshop, Chief Guest Shri Sanjiv Chaturvedi



(Conservator of Forest, Research, Govt. of Uttarakhand) emphasized on the importance of LTEM of forests for biodiversity conservation. Lectures and hands-on practical exercises on related topics were delivered by subject experts and Institute faculty. Dr. Narendra Singh, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science, Nainital, Prof. Jeet Ram, Head, Dept. of Forestry & Environmental Sciences, Kumaun University,

Prof. Uma Melkania, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, and Dr. G.C. Joshi, former Incharge Scientist of C.C.R.A.S., Tarikhet (Distt. Almora) were the main resource persons. **At the Himachal Regional Center,**

Kullu, IDB was jointly celebrated with Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (HPSBB), Shimla. The Chief Guest of the function Shri Akshay Sood, Additional District Magistrate, Kullu while addressing the participants requested representatives of various panchayats to play active role in biodiversity conservation by formation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR). In addition, various lead lectures on the different aspects of biodiversity were given by eminent persons including Prof. P.L. Gautam,



Former Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority; Dr. J.R. Thakur, Former Associate Director, YSPUHF; Dr. K.C. Sharma, KVK, CSKHPKV, Bajaura; Dr. M.L. Thakur, HPSSB, Shimla, etc. At this occasion a brain storming session was

organized to discuss on the mountain biodiversity and its role in livelihood and health in which 135 participants representing various stakeholder groups participated. **At the Sikkim Regional Center,**



Pangthang the IDB was celebrated in the form of an exposure visit and biodiversity knowledge interpretation competition for students and plantation drive. The day was linked with the three days

nature camp (May 22-24, 2019) where students were introduced to diverse aspects of biodiversity. At the Garhwal Regional Center, Srinagar an awareness program and brain storming session for the 30 students and 15 teachers of local schools was organized in which biodiversity conservation and food security was focused to sensitize the students.

At the Northeast Regional Center, Itanagar events were organized for the students of Donyi Polo Vidya Bhawan School, Itanagar at the Rural Technology Centre (RTC) of the Institute. In this event Institute scientists shared valuable information with the participants on forest biodiversity, agricultural diversity; its importance and conservation practices. After technical discussions, a drawing competition was organized among the school students on the theme biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh.