



## **Proceedings on One Day Workshop on “International Biodiversity Day” on the theme:” Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development” held at ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad on 22.05.2025**

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A one-day workshop was organized at the Extension Centre, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad on “International Biodiversity Day (IBD): 2025” on the theme:” Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development” on 22.05.2025. A total of 42 students from ICFAI Law University, Hyderabad along with 3 law faculties visited the institute during. Ms Aryama Mishra, Scientist-‘B’, Extension Division welcomed all the participants and dignitaries of the workshop. As the workshop commenced, Dr. Pankaj Singh, Scientist-‘D’ and Head, Extension gave a brief overview of the workshop describing the agenda of the workshop. Dr. Singh highlighted the importance of the workshop which is aligned the UNDP’s Sustainable Development Goals thus aiming to protect our planet and focussing on conservation and sustainable uses of natural resources.

Dr. Swapnendu Pattanaik, Group Coordinator (Research), Scientist-‘G’, gave inaugural address to all the participants, teachers and resource persons of this workshop. Dr Pattanaik, highlighted the importance of celebration of this day as ‘International Biodiversity Day’ in present context with an aim to reduce the over-exploitation of natural resources and conserving them for future. He also said that this year’s IBD theme is aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity Goals and UNDP’s Sustainable Development Goals which focusses on living with harmony with nature. During his address he explained the term ‘Biodiversity’ and said that because of the ruthless actions of human beings it is under threat. Dr S. Pattanaik added that all the life forms on earth are interrelated to each other and if one link is disturbed the whole ecosystem gets disturbed. He also said that we unlike our ancestors have diverted our pathways by over-exploiting our natural resources hence creating an imbalance to the whole ecosystem. During his address he said that scientists are working to figure out ways to deal with the present threats and conserve our ecosystem. He also added that IUCN Red list maintains the inventory of global conservation status and extinction risk of biological species. Highlighting the importance of this workshop with the Sustainable Development Goals Dr Pattanaik added that SDGs Goal 14 and 15 are related to biodiversity while SDGs 1,2,5,6 and 7 are interlinked with the social goals as they focus on human well being and social progress. He also explained that biodiversity is the basis of all SDG goals. Towards the end of his address, he added that simple actions in our daily life in collective manner can bring a huge difference in the society.

Sh. E. Venkat Reddy, IFS, Director, in his special address spoke about the importance of the workshop aiming to enlighten the participants regarding conserving our nature and maintaining harmony with nature. He also focussed about the problem of depletion of natural resources due to their over-exploitation even beyond the carrying capacity of land. These natural resources are not restored by our mother earth hence the natural cycle is disturbed. In order to achieve sustainable development, judicious use of these resources are essential. He also highlighted the production demands are met by increased use of fertilizers and pesticides for enhanced productivity which degrades our agriculture ecosystem. Thus, nature-based solutions like bio-fertilizers, biochar etc. needs to be promoted to attain sustainable agriculture

practices. During his address he said that it is the Fundamental duty of every citizen to protect our mother Earth and ensure judicious use of resources. He also added that institute is also working towards achieving the sustainable development goals and are implementing projects targeted towards conservation of biological diversity. During his address he quoted environmental laws to protect our biodiversity & encourage the law students to learn more about these laws for benefit of society. He also spoke about section (3) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 which aims to take measure to protect and improve our environment. During his address he said that the green tax is levied on activities that harm the environment, aiming to discourage those activities and incentivize environmentally friendly alternatives. Hence, focus should be on eco-friendly practices to protect and conserve our environment.

Sh. C. Umamaheshwar Reddy, Environmental Scientist, Council of Green Revolution, Environmental Organization, Hyderabad presented on “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development”. Sh. Umamaheshwar Reddy, briefed about his organization activities along with the achievements and awards to their credit. He also talked about the rallies, plantation drives and campaigns run by them in various schools and colleges. In his lecture, he emphasized the importance of living in harmony with nature to mitigate the current challenges faced by our ecosystem, such as the accelerated use of natural resources and the threat of extinction faced by various biological species. Shri Reddy also outlined solutions aimed at safeguarding our ecosystem. During his address he added that soil is an essential resource and takes billions of years for its formation hence, it needs to be conserved for continuation of life on earth. He ended his esteemed words sensitizing everyone towards our responsibility to save nature.

Dr Geetha Priyadarshini, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad presented on “Sustainable Development Goals and Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)”. She discussed about the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ambitious pathway to live in harmony with nature. She also briefed the students about the frameworks vision and mission along with the key elements of the framework viz; 4 goals to be achieved by 2050 and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. During her address she also talked about ways to restore the lost biodiversity by promoting on local species because of their higher adaptability towards climate change. She also discussed in depth about the goals and targets of the framework emphasizing upon greening up urban spaces to tackle the problem of climate change, non conversion of forest land for development purposes, promoting on the usage of nature-based pesticides and fertilizers and related concepts. Dr. Geetha concluded her esteemed remarks by emphasizing that biodiversity conservation and protection as a collective responsibility of every citizen.

The next session of the program began with a biodiversity walk organized by the institute which aimed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and help participants identify local plant species within and around the ICFRE-IFB campus. During the walk, participants visited nurseries, field experiment areas, and several specialized laboratories, including those dedicated to Soil Science, Entomology, and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Research.

The one-day workshop ended with Vote of Thanks by Dr Suraj, Scientist-‘B’, Extension Division. The whole program was coordinated by the Extension division & technical staff of the institute.

## Glimpses of the Program

