

Conservation of Biodiversity requires peoples' participation and multidisciplinary approach: Prof. S. Mohanty, Vice-Chancellor, CUO



In the 21st Century world, the most pressing problem faced by the mother earth is extinction of species, recurring natural disasters, erratic climatic condition and depletion of natural resources. Inaugurating the seminar on "Biodiversity Conservation: Issues and Challenges" in Central University of Orissa, Vice-Chancellor of Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty said- for a better world, conservation of biodiversity is the utmost necessity and it requires peoples participation and multidisciplinary approach in solving environmental problems. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the importance of biodiversity studies and asked them to become environmental entrepreneurs.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources, Central University of Orissa, Koraput to observe the International Day of Biodiversity on 22nd May, 2018. **Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean of the School** welcomed the guests and presented the Theme Paper. He highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation and challenges faced by it.



Dr. M. Madhu, Director ICAR Soil and Water Research Institute, Sunabeda and Chief Guest-cum-Chief speaker spoke on the importance of soil and water conservation for conserving biodiversity. He statistically explained the root cause of the loss of nutrients in soils and the negative impacts of soil erosion. He gave thrust on the basic factors for the loss in biodiversity in terms of agriculture, forestry and the impact of shifting cultivation on forest resource conservation.

Mr. P.K. Mallick, IFS, Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF), Koraput and Guest of Honour of the Seminar spoke on importance of diverse wild flora and its vanishing trend in the modern times. He also emphasized on the study of natural forest areas, its natural resources and to make nature the living laboratory for the students of biodiversity.

A **biodiversity documentary film "Koraput: The Rooted Paradise"** prepared by research scholars was displayed on the occasion. Dignitaries inaugurated a **"Biodiversity Photo Exhibition"** and Second issue of Wall Magazine **"Biome"**.

Dr. Debabrata Panda, Asst. Professor gave vote of thanks and the arrangements for the meeting was managed by Dr. Kakoli. Banerjee, Asst Prof. and Ms. Swati Sakamabari Mishra acted as Anchor.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources, Central University of Orissa, Koraput on 22nd May, 2018 in the Seminar Hall at Landiguda Campus. Important dignitaries present were **Dr. M. Madhoo, Head, ICAR-IISWC Sunabeda, Mr. P. K. Mallik, RCCF, Directorate of Forest, Govt. of Odisha, Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Orissa, Prof. S. K. Palita, Dean- School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources**, Dr. Kakoli Banerjee & Dr. Debabrata Panda, Assistant Professors of the Department.

The programme started with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. Welcome address was delivered by **Prof. S. K. Palita**. He gave a brief introduction on the concept of biodiversity conservation and highlighted the challenges in it. He also gave thrust on the importance of the day and the prospects of such studies. The inaugural address was delivered by **Vice Chancellor** of the University. In his address he discussed on the amalgamation of various subjects in conserving biodiversity and the important aspect of transferring the technology to the grass root level.



Mr. Mallik spoke on the various plant and animal species which were present during his childhood days and compared the decline in the species number. He explained the cause of such decline to be the change in the climatic variability. He also emphasized on the study of natural forest areas and to make nature the living laboratory for the students of biodiversity. **Dr. M. Madhoo** spoke on the importance of soil and water conservation for conserving biodiversity. He statistically explained the root cause of the nutrients in soils and the negative impacts of soil erosion. He gave thrust on the basic factors for the loss in biodiversity in terms of agriculture, forestry and the impact of shifting cultivation on forest resource conservation.



A **biodiversity documentary film** prepared by the students and research scholars was displayed on the occasion prepared by the students of the Department. **Wall Magazine "Biome"** prepared

by the PG students and **Photo exhibition** done by the PG students and research scholars were inaugurated by the dignitaries. Prize distribution for **quiz and elocution competition** was distributed by the dignitaries. Prof. Mohanty encouraged the students of biodiversity for various job perspectives and congratulated the students and research scholars for wonderfully arranging the seminar. The seminar ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Debarata Panda.

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