



**INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS AND TREE BREEDING
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
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CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (IBD)-2013

In December 2000, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 22nd May as the “International Day for Biological Diversity” (IBD). This day is celebrated to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. It is on 22nd May, 1992, the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference agreed to the text of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The theme of IBD-2013 is “**Water and Biodiversity**”. This theme was chosen to coincide with designation of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation by the United Nations.

Water is the essence of life on earth. No living being can survive without water, as this wonderful compound has been involved in almost all biological functions in living organisms. Less than 1% of all the water on earth is fresh water that we can actually use. We use this small amount of water for drinking and many other purposes. The fresh water also forms the habitat for umpteen numbers of living organisms.

Human interventions, in the name of development have upset the water cycle. The climate change has brought about the phenomenon of erratic rainfall and drought, adversely affecting the forest biodiversity, agricultural productivity and resultant poverty. Discharging of industrial effluents has polluted almost all water bodies, which are still the source of drinking water for millions of human population.

About 780 million people lack access to clean water. More than 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation and hygiene-related causes. The IBD-2013 with the theme “**Water and Biodiversity**” will serve to create increased awareness about all these vital issues and to initiate positive action towards circumventing perhaps one of the most serious problems, i.e. “scarcity of pure water”, the earth is facing today.

As part of this global initiative, IFGTB, an institute under ICFRE is celebrating the IBD-2013, in a befitting manner. The IBD-2013 celebrations will be inaugurated by **Dr. E.J. James, Vice Chancellor (i/c), Karunya University, Coimbatore**, on 22nd May 2013. A Special Lecture will also be delivered by him on the topic, “**Relevance of river basin approach for wise use of wetland ecosystems**”. Prizes will be distributed to the winners of various competitions conducted for school and college students in connection with IBD-2013, during the function.

All are cordially invited to participate in the function.

Dr. N. Krishnakumar
Director