

## Celebration of International Day of Biological Diversity: A Report

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 as International Day of Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues among masses. To commemorate this occasion, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) celebrated International Day of Biological Diversity at Chandra Kamal Bezbarua High School, Boloma, Jorhat (Assam) on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011. Elaborate arrangements were made to organize this two days event.



The first day programme was inaugurated by Sri Surya Hatibaruah, Retired Headmaster of C. K. B High School, Boloma. Headmaster of same school Sri Putul Chandra Doloi graced the occasion. Drawing competitions and plantation programmes were the main attraction of the first day. Altogether seven schools participated in the Drawing competition.



The second day program was inaugurated by Ms. Imtienla Ao, IFS, Conservator of Forest, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat. In her speech, she advised the children to plant more and more trees in their lives. Dr. Dandeswar Dutta, Research Officer, RFRI elaborated about the aims and objectives of the programme. Sri Manik Phukan, Assistant Teacher, Teok High School, Jorhat spoke on the occasion and emphasized the need of conserving our all biological resources. He expressed shock and anguish on the over exploitation of our natural resources leading to their extinction.

Two posters namely 'North East: A Jewel in the Crown of India's Biological Diversity-Flora' and 'North East: A Jewel in the Crown of India's Biological Diversity-Fauna' were released on the occasion by Sri Manik Phukan, Assistant Teacher, Teok High School, Jorhat and Sri Ratneswar Gogoi, Principal Teok Girls Higher Secondary School, Teok.

Speech Competition and Quiz competition were organized among school students from nine schools.



A popular lecture by Dr. Prabin Saikia, Professor, Bihpuria College, Bihpuria, Lakhimpur, Assam was organized. He delivered his talk on '*Jana jiban aru prani jagator babe udhidor proyujoniyata*' (Importance of plants for human and animal wellbeing). The main attraction of his lecture was practical demonstration and acquaintance with indigenous plants with younger generation. He emphasized the need to conserve our all natural resources because these resources, once become extinct, cannot be revived again. He told that human being and also animal mostly depend on plant diversity for their survival.

A parallel Session of poster presentation was organized to sensitize the students about biological diversity. Scientists of RFRI present their posters for the public viewing in this Session. Documentary Films on Biodiversity of Kaziranga National Park and poaching activities of Sariska National Park were presented. The show was highly liked and appreciated by the gathering and children.





Valedictory Session was attended by Ms. Imtienla Ao, IFS, Conservator of Forest, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam). Sri K. K. Saikia, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Jorhat, Scientists, Research Officers, other Officials of RFRI, local people, press and media also present. Prizes for different competitions were distributed to the winner in the Valedictory Session.

The entire programme was organized and conducted by Sri Rajib Kumar Kalita, Scientist and Training Coordinator of RFRI, Jorhat.

