

World Wetlands Day 2010

Programme I

World Wetlands Day 2010 was observed by WWF-India, Kerala State Office at NSS Training College, Changanassery, a wetland area bestowed with canals, paddy fields and marshes around Vembanad Lake, the largest Ramsar Site of India. The programme was attended by 155 Teacher Trainees and their faculty. Dr.K.Remadevi, Lecturer and Nature Club Adviser welcomed the guests and participants to the function. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri.K.Gopalakrishnan Nair, Vice-Chairman, Municipal Council, Changanassery in a function presided over by Smt.Christal Gladis, Principal of the institution. Sri.Arunkumar, Union Chairman of the college felicitated the programme with a solo that depicts the natural beauty and resources of Kerala. Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, A.K.Sivakumar, Education Officer of WWF-India, Kerala State Office and Dr.Lekshmi K. Nair, Lecturer of Natural Science delivered their felicitations to the function. Sri.Vivek, representative of Haritham Nature Club of the college delivered the vote of thanks. Participants were provided with a set of 3 posters on wetlands regarding their values, services and functions, food provision and as habitat for waterfowl.

Following the inaugural function, Mr. A.K.Sivakumar presented the technical session on '*Wetlands in general, national and state scenario*'. Types of wetlands, its significance in our life, conservation efforts at international and national levels, Ramsar convention etc were well explained in this session. Sri.Renjan Mathew Varghese led the second session on '*Threats and Conservation Issues of Wetlands*'. The present status of wetland degradation and associated socio economic and ecological problems were detailed in this session. Land reclamation, pollution, indiscriminate use of pesticides, unsustainable tourism, developmental process, weed infestation, sand mining, unsustainable fishing etc were highlighted as the main threats to wetland ecosystems in Kerala. Case studies of issues and success stories also were detailed in this session. Both the technical sessions helped the participants to acquire a knowledge base on wetlands at all levels.

In the afternoon session, a quiz programme exclusively on Wetlands was led by Mr.Sivakumar. Each optional subject students were grouped into teams for the competition. The quiz programme lifted the energy and interaction level of the entire participants. The teams from Physical Science, Natural Science and Social Science won the first, second and third prizes respectively.

The poster competition conducted in connection with the event was thought provoking and informative. The poster set prepared by teams of Physical Science and Mathematics were selected as first and second respectively. The event came to an end with the feedback by the participants, vote of thanks and national anthem.

Programme II

In a similar programme organised at NSS College, Cherthala, Ms. G. Salini, Research Officer of WWF-India, Kerala State Office presented a multimedia presentation on Wetlands as part of a half day seminar. Sixty students from the various discipline of Environmental Science, Zoology and Botany participated in the programme.



