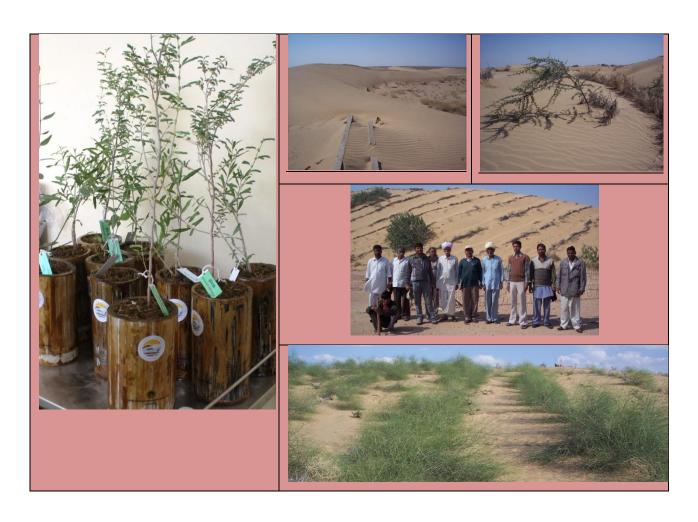






Report

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2016



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India

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1. World Day to Combat Desertification 2016

- 1.1 The World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) is observed worldwide every year on 17 June, since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought. In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared (General Assembly Resolution A/RES/49/115) June 17 the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" to promote public awareness of the issue, and the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. Since then, country Parties to the Convention, organizations of the United Nations System, international and non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders have celebrated this particular day with a series of outreach activities worldwide.
- 1.2 This Day is a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation at all levels. Country Parties and civil society organizations are invited to organize events to celebrate the WDCD as an additional opportunity to increase awareness raising and participation in the process. Though land is a valuable and limited natural resource, it has been an overlooked component in sustainable development for years. It is time we change this, and therefore the clear emphasis should be on importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and contribute towards achieving the overall Sustainable Development Goals.
- 1.3 In order to "leave no one behind" as proclaimed in the new Sustainable Development Goals, achieving land degradation neutrality needs to be in the forefront to meet our requirements and develop sustainability. The theme for this year's celebration is "Inclusive cooperation for achieving Land degradation Neutrality" and with a very emphatic and compelling slogan "Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People." This slogan clearly emphasizes on the importance of comprehensive participation and cooperation of the people in working towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) No. 15, one of the goals to

be achieved by 2030: envisage to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

2. Observances in India

2.1 As a part of nation-wide observance on the theme of WDCD 2016, programmes were organized at many places by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India which is the Nodal Agency for reporting to UNCCD. The programmes involved State Governments, school children, members of village forest protection and management committees, practitioners, various research organizations, political leaders and private sector.

2.2 Main celebration at Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur

- 2.2.1 With a view to involve people from the concerned areas, the main programme was organized at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The State has a rich tradition to protect its natural resources mentioning the sacrifice of people of Khejrali village to save Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) trees led by Amrita Devi. There are many prominent research institutions at Jodhpur involved in dedicated research works for arid and semi-arid areas of the country. The programme was organized at the campus of Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur (AFRI) involving schools children, farmers, members of forest management committees, scientific communities, government officials and nongovernmental organizations. AFRI is a constituent institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, an autonomous body under MoEFCC and caters the forestry research needs of the arid and semi arid region of the country.
- 2.2.2 School children were invited to participate in a drawing and painting competition at AFRI campus on 17 June 2016 in which around 100 school children participated. Announcement was made on the institute's website and through news papers for the competition. To ensure large number of participation various school authorities in the city were also contacted. The competition was organized for two categories having different topics on Greenery and Livelihood for junior category (Class V VII) and Land Degradation and Restoration in Arid Zone for senior category (Class IX XII).





Painting and drawing competition

There was a panel of three judges from reputed educational and research institutions. On competition of the competition the participants and parents were served refreshments and certificate of participation with small gift (pen for seniors and colour pencil set for juniors) was distributed to all participants.

A large number of paintings made by the winners and other participants were displayed at the programme venue.





Display of paintings

Winners of the painting and drawing competitions were awarded certificates and trophy by Mr. Gajendra Shekhawat, Honourable Member of Parliament, Jodhpur Constituency who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.





Prize winners of painting and drawing competitions

2.2.3 A video message of Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent

Charge), MoEFCC, Government of India was played during the function. In his message the Minister emphasized on rain water harvesting and traditional conservation practices to combat desertification. He informed that, for the benefit of the farmers, soil health card, an initiative of the Government of India is playing a big role and various advanced



techniques are being utilized to generate information to aid farmers.

2.2.4 On the occasion two books were released. The first one was 'Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (Based on IRS AWiFS data of 2011-13 and 2003-05)' which was prepared by the Space Application Centre, Department of Space, Government of India in collaboration with MoEFCC and other State level institutions. This Atlas presents Desertification /Land Degradation Status Maps depicting Land Use, Process of Degradation and Severity Level along with area statistics consolidated for entire country as well state-wise for 2011-13 and 2003-05 time frame and reports the changes. The book 'Cacti in Desert botanical Garden' published by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur was also released on this occasion. The book

gives details of 33 cacti, their cultivation and maintenance and is useful to researchers, foresters, teachers, growers, gardeners and common public alike.



Release of books during the World Day to Combat Desertification 2016

2.2.5 In association with the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan a one-day training-cum-awareness programme was organized at AFRI campus for the foresters and members of village forest protection and management committees of desert districts of the State of Rajasthan on importance of afforestation in combating desertification through public participation. There were 75 trainee foresters from Desert Forest Training Centre, Jodhpur, who also participated in the training.

The participants were exposed to different technologies developed at AFRI. A visit to the AFRI nursery was made and improved nursery practices were explained and demonstrated in details.

The participants were taken to the Arboretum and other experimental fields of AFRI. There were technical sessions on rain water harvesting and conservation practices to improve productivity in agro-forestry, direct—indirect benefits from trees, plantation techniques, various methods of combating desertification, sand dune stabilization,



restoration of degraded hills, medicinal plants by eminent resource persons.

The Chief Guest of the Day also addressed the participants and urged them to initiate a mass movement involving the local people to conserve forest and other natural resources. He emphasized on small activities on individual level, like saving energy, which will have a larger effect to keep our environment protected.

2.2.6 There was arrangement for display of various products made by the self help groups in the training venue. Self help groups from all the five districts displayed their products; ranging from embroidery items to semi processed plant products of local origin used for vegetable, medicine and other purposes.





Product display by self-help groups

2.2.7 The workshop on 'Desertification and Land Degradation: Assessment and Rehabilitation Measures' constituted the technical part of the daylong celebrations of the World Day to Combat Desertification. The workshop was attended by scientists from Space Applications Center (SAC) Ahmedabad; RRSC-W, Jodhpur; CAZRI and AFRI. The workshop was chaired by Dr. L.N. Harsh, Former VC, Agricultural University, Jodhpur and Co-Chaired by Dr. D.K. Das, Associate Director, SAC, Ahmedabad.

There were lead scientists of SAC, Ahmedabad; CAZRI Jodhpur and AFRI Jodhpur made presentations on ecological management of arid lands, rehabilitation of degraded dry lands, desertification vulnerability modelling, monitoring desertification and land degradation of India using satellite data and Kachchh Resource Information System.





Concerns were raised over the problems of climate change and associated land area shrinkage due to desertification and sea water rise leading to immigration of populations to arable land. The need to use modern technology in assessment of soil moisture, crop productivity, land use change pattern etc was felt. There were sessions on monitoring desertification and land degradation of India using satellite data: status and future plans, demonstration of "Visualization of Earth Observation Data and Archival System", desertification vulnerability modeling using geo-informatics, "Kachchh Resource Information System (KRIS)" based on high resolution satellite data; desert Information System – Remote sensing and GIS perspectives" and Eological management of arid lands for combating desertification and "Rehabilitation of degraded lands".

2.3 Celebration at other places

2.3.1 At Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

The Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre on Wildlife & Protected Areas under



Release of poster on desertification

the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun celebrated the WDCD 2016. There were many speakers including Director of the institute who emphasized on the need of global efforts to reverse the impacts of land degradation. There were presentations on the causes of desertification, need to develop a National Dryland Policy and implementing mitigation measures to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality. A

poster on causes, impacts and roadmap to halt the spread of desertification was also released.



The event witnessed active involvement from more than one hundred participants including faculty members, staff, researchers and M.Sc. students of the Wildlife Institute of India, Ph.D. students from Doon University and forestry students from Dolphin PG Institute.

2.3.2 At Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun

A seminar was organized on inclusive cooperation for achieving land degradation neutrality at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun to mark the occasion of WDCD 2016. This was attended by the officer trainees of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Central Academy for State Forest Service, eminent scientists and foresters of the institute. There were invited panellists who expressed their views on the importance of eco-restoration in achieving self-sustainability of degraded land citing local examples.

2.3.3 At State Knowledge Management Centre on Climate Change, Bhopal

A workshop was also organized at the State Knowledge Management Centre on Climate Change, Bhopal by the Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation, Government of Madhya Pradesh in which more than 100 farmers, member of non-governmental organizations and research scholars participated. There was a quiz competition organized for participants.

3. Annexures

a. Names of winners of on-the-spot painting competitions

Junior Group (Class VI - VIII)

First Prize – Sh. M. Gopal Krishna

Second prize – Ms. Palakshi Vyas

Third prize – Ms. Ayushi Patel

Encouragement prize – Sh. Yash Jedia

Senior group (Class IX- XIII)

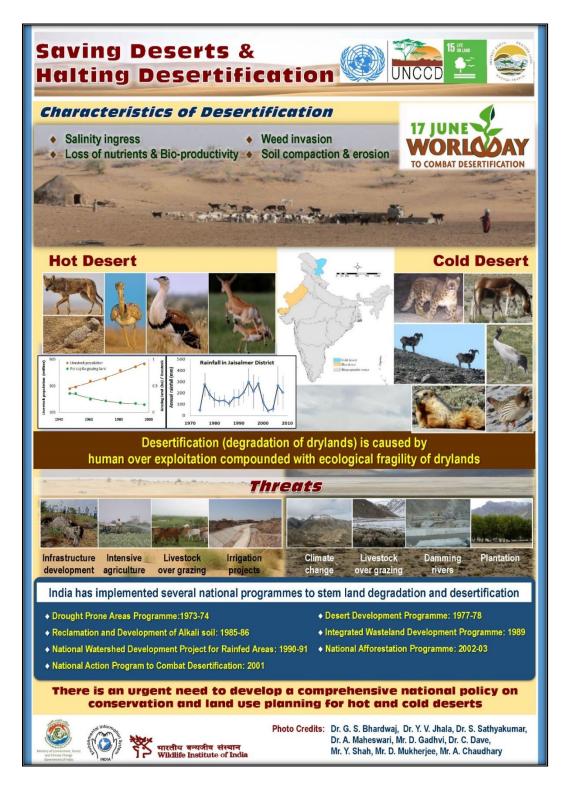
First Prize – Ms. Nidhi Paliwal

Second prize – Ms. Ankita Parihar

Third prize – Ms. Sadia Khan

Encouragement prize – Ms. Tanushree Sharma

b. Release of poster on causes, impacts and roadmap to halt the spread of desertification



c. Certificate template, banner, programme agenda

Certificate



Banners





Programme agenda

कार्यक्रम	Programme	Timing
मुख्य अतिथि द्वारा आफरी परिसर में पौधरोपण	Planting of sapling in the AFRI Campus by the Chief Guest	11:15 AM
मुख्य अतिथि का सभागार में आगमन	Arrival of Chief Guest in the Conference Hall	
पुष्प गुच्छ भेंट, पारम्परिक स्वागत एवं दीप प्रज्वलन	Presentation of bouquets, traditional welcome and lighting of lamp	11:30 AM
स्वागत भाषण	Welcome Address	11:40 AM
मरुस्थलीकरण मानवित्रावली एवं अन्य पुरतकों का विमोचन, पुरस्कार वितरण, अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केन्द्र, अहमदाबाद द्वारा 'VEDAS' का प्रदर्शन	Release of Desertification Atlas and other books, prize distribution, demonstration of 'VEDAS' by representatives of SAC, Ahmadabad	11:45 AM
विशिष्ट अतिवियों द्वारा संबोधन	Address by Guest of honour	12:00 AM
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय/इसरो के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी माननीय सांसद (जोधपुर एवं पाली) 	Senior officials from MoEF&CC & ISRO Hon'ble MP, Jodhpur and Pali	
मुख्य अतिथि द्वारा संबोधन	Address by the chief Guest	12:20 PM
घन्यवाद ज्ञापन	Vote of Thanks	12:35 PM
मीडिया/किसानों/गैर सरकारी संगठनों के साथ चर्चा	Interaction with Media/Farmers/NGOs	12:40 PM
. 9	थेक भवन/सेमीनार हॉल, आफरी, जोंधपुर) unity Hall/Seminar Hall, AFRI, Jodhpur) Event	Time
	Painting & drawing competition for school children	7:30 AM – 10:00 AM
ग्राम वन सुरक्षा प्रबंधन समितियों के सदस्यों के लिए जागरुकता व प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला	Awareness-cum-Training Workshop for the members of village forest management Committees	09:00 AM - 5:30 PM
तकनीकी सत्र (इसरो/आफरी/काजरी)	Technical Session (ISRO/AFRI/CAZRI)	3:30 PM -

d. Newspapers clippings

Rajasthan Patrika







Rajasthan Patrika



आफरी समागर में आयोजित विश्व मरु प्रसार रोक विवस कार्यक्रम में बड़ी संख्य में शहर के गणमान्य लोगों ने शिरकत की।

जोधपर प्राचीनकाल से ही मर क्षेत्र के मनीषी प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन के लिए किए जाने वाले वैज्ञानिक प्रयासों से भली-भारत परिचित थे तथा ओरण, गोचर एवं तालाबों के आगोर द्वारा हर व्यक्ति प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के सतत् उपयोग के लिए कार्य करता था। सरकारी प्रयास के साथ-साथ आज आवश्यक है कि हर एक व्यक्ति अपने-अपने हंग से मर क्षेत्र में हरियाली लाने के लिए प्रयास करे। ये उद्गार सांसद गजेंद्रसिंह शेखावत ने शुष्क वन अनुसंधान संस्थान (आफरी) संभागार में शुक्रवार को आयोजित विश्व मरु प्रसार रोक दिवस कार्यक्रम में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि व्यवत किए। शेखावत ने मरु क्षेत्र में हरियाली लाने के लिए जन आंदोलन चलाने की जरूरत बताई।

कार्यक्रम के आरंभ में आफरी निदेशक एनके वास भावसे ने अतिथियों का स्वागत करते हुए मरु प्रसार रोक दिवस के बारे में बताया। कार्यक्रम में भारत सरकार के वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री प्रकाश जाबड़ेकर ने अपने वीडियो संदेश में चराई को नियंत्रित करने तथा पनि का उचित संरक्षण कर मरु धूमि को हरित भूमि में बदलने का आहान किया। संयुक्त



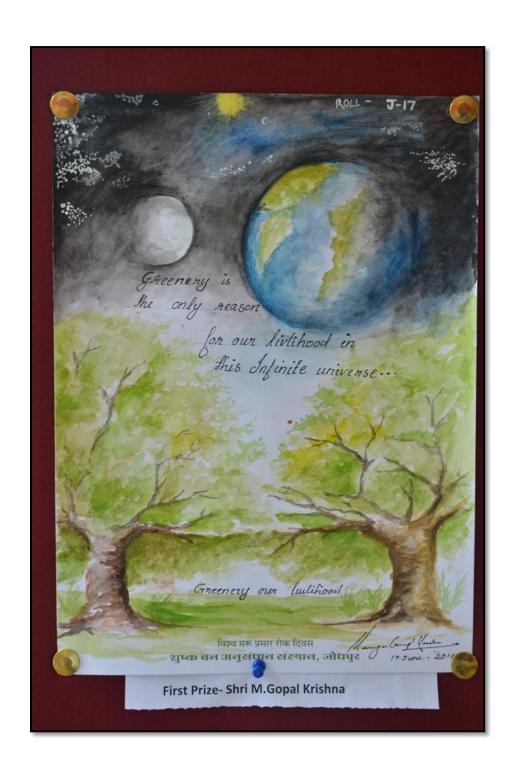
थयों ने 'केक्टर्ड इन डेजर्ट बोटिनिकल गर्डन' प्रस्तक का विमोचन किया।

सचिव वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय रविशंकर प्रसाद, राष्ट्रीय परियोजना निदेशक, अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र (इसरो), अहमदाबाद के डॉ. केएस राजावत ने भी अपने विचार रखे। इस अवसर पर इसरो द्वारा महस्थलीकरण मानचित्र तथा काजरी द्वारा तैयार की गई पुस्तक 'कैक्टई इन डेजर्ट बोटिनिकल गार्डन' का विमोचन भी किया गया। इसरो वैज्ञानिक डॉ. एसए शर्मा ने वेडास के बारे सचिव डॉ. वाईबीएन कृष्णामृति, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय को अतिरिक्त सचिव रजनी रंजन रश्मि ने भी विविध जानकारियां दीं। अंत में निदेशक हरित भारत मिशन, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की भारती ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन किया। इससे

पूर्व आफरी परिसर में पौधरोपण किया गया। साथ हो आम वन सुरक्षा प्रबंधन समितियों के सदस्यों के लिए जागरूकता एवं प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला तथा इसरो, काजरी, एवं आफरी के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ तकनीकी सत्र भी आयोजित किया गया।

चित्रकला प्रतियोगिता के विजेता प्रतिभागी घोषित

आफरी द्वारा विद्यार्थियों के लिए को वर्गों में में बताया। विज्ञान विभाग के वैज्ञानिक । जुवियर (कक्षा 5 से 8 तक) एवं सीवियर वर्ग (कक्षा ९ से १२ तक) के लिए चित्रकला प्रतियोगता आयोजित की गई। इसमें 80 विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिखा जुनियर वर्ण में एम. गोपाल कृषणा प्रथम, पलाभी व्यास द्वितीय व आयुषी पटेल तृतीय रहे। सीनवर वर्ग में निधि पालीवाल प्रथम, अंकिता परिकृत द्वितीय व सदिया खान तृतीय रही।



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India Website: www.moef.nic.in