



Report on
World Wetlands Day Celebrations 2025
31st January to 3rd February 2025



by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore – 641 002**

World Wetlands Day 2025 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As part of Mission LiFE, the EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building, and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, commemorated World Wetlands Day 2025 by organizing various activities from 31.01.2025 to 03.02.2025. The primary objective was to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands among students and the general public.

31.01.2025: Awareness Campaign and In-House Quiz:

Dr. Rekha R. Warriar, Scientist G and EIACP Coordinator, during her introductory remarks provided an insightful introduction, emphasizing that wetlands serve as critical carbon sinks, helping to mitigate climate change. She gave an insight to their importance for human well-being and elaborated on the current year's theme "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future" by highlighting their indispensable role in achieving a sustainable future. Stressing the urgency of conservation and restoration efforts, she urged individuals, researchers, and policymakers to take collective action in preserving these invaluable ecosystems for future generations.

Dr. B. Nagarajan, Group Coordinator Research, during his special address explained about the critical role of mangroves in conserving wetlands and sustaining ecosystems and human livelihoods. He emphasized that mangroves are among the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems, serving as natural guardians of coastal wetlands by stabilizing shorelines, preventing erosion, and reducing the impact of storm surges and tsunamis. He highlighted their vital ecosystem services, including water filtration, carbon sequestration, and flood control, which help maintain wetland health and climate resilience. Mangroves act as natural buffers, absorbing excess rainfall and trapping sediments, thereby protecting freshwater wetlands from salinity intrusion and degradation. Additionally, he underscored their economic importance, as they support fisheries, coastal agriculture, and ecotourism, benefiting millions of people globally. He urged for urgent conservation and restoration efforts to protect mangroves and the wetlands they support, ensuring long-term ecological and economic sustainability.

Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE-IFGTB, inaugurated the campaign and released an awareness poster emphasizing the significance of wetlands. In his inaugural address, he discussed the various types of wetlands and their essential role in providing freshwater to communities. He emphasized that wetlands act as natural reservoirs, storing and gradually releasing water, which helps sustain rivers, lakes, and groundwater sources, ensuring a continuous supply of freshwater for people. He also highlighted the importance of water walks—concept that allows individuals to explore wetlands firsthand, fostering a deeper understanding of their ecological functions. Director also explained the crucial role of hydrophytes in water purification and enhancing water productivity, highlighting the need for conservation and sustainable management of these invaluable ecosystems. He further pointed out that

wetlands serve as critical habitats for migratory birds, offering them essential breeding and feeding grounds, which in turn contributes to biodiversity conservation and ecological balance. With wetlands being abused at an alarming rate, he urged everyone to actively engage in their restoration and conservation to ensure ecological sustainability.

An In-house awareness quiz was conducted. Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, explaining the rules and format at the outset. Ten groups, each comprising four enthusiastic participants, competed in a thrilling three-round contest, which included: Objective Questions with Multiple Choices; Rapid-Fire Round and Visual Round. The teams displayed remarkable knowledge and quick thinking, making the competition both challenging and exciting. Awareness posters and handouts were disseminated widely. A tree sapling programme has been planned on 02.02.2025 in Vandalmunai, Killai Reserved Forest in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Cuddalore Division and CASEMB EIACP PC RP. All the events have been registered with worldwide events of the <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>.













**EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2025

Theme : "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future"

World Wetlands Day 2025 is a global event dedicated to recognizing the significance of wetlands, which encompass a wide range of habitats, including marshes, swamps, bogs, and mangroves. These ecosystems play a crucial role in maintaining water quality, supporting biodiversity, mitigating climate change and providing livelihoods for millions of people worldwide.

- Wetlands support 40% of all known plant and animal species. This includes many endangered, threatened and endemic species that can only survive in certain wetland habitats – and nowhere else
- Ensuring biodiversity-inclusive urban planning is critical for a sustainable future
- Wetlands are natural sponges. Salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves and other wetland habitats store water during floods and preserve surface water during droughts
- Coastal wetlands, such as mangroves, sequester carbon up to 55 times faster than tropical rainforests
- Rivers and inland waterways play a vital role in transporting goods and people in many parts of the world
- Invasive alien species often outcompete native biodiversity, thereby contributing to wetland biodiversity loss

Why is this theme is Important?

Wetlands are threatened ecosystems that help maintain ecological balance and biodiversity

Wetlands are important for capturing carbon dioxide and slowing climate change

Wetlands are important for food systems, providing rice, grains, and fish

Wetlands are important for culture, providing spaces for folklore and relaxation

A world without wetlands is a world without water

#ActForWetlands

#WetlandConservation

#WorldWetlandsDay

02.02.2025:- Mass Plantation Drive at Ramasar Site

As part of Mission LiFE, World Wetlands Day 2025 and in connection with EK Ped Maa Ke Naam- A Tree in the Name of Mother, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore in collaboration with CASMB EIACP PC RP, Annamalai University and Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Cuddalore Division organized a Mass Tree Plantation Drive at Pichavaram Ramsar Site and Vandalmunai Reserved Forest. This collaborative Mass Tree Plantation Drive on 2nd February 2025 was the first of its kind, uniting efforts from diverse stakeholders, including ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP, CASMB EIACP PC RP, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Nambikkai Trust, tribal communities, and school & college students.

Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ICFRE-IFGTB EAACP welcomed the gathering and explained about the Ramsar Conventions and gave an overview about the Ramasar sites designated in India. While highlighting the current year's theme "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future" he spoke about the importance of the wetlands and the vital role in preserving other ecosystems. He highlighted that these ecosystems serve as natural reservoirs for freshwater, support biodiversity, and help regulate climate change impacts.

Dr. Lenin, Programme Officer, CASMB EIACP PC RP elaborated on the importance of mangroves in protecting wetland ecosystems. He explained how mangroves act as natural barriers against coastal erosion, cyclones, and other extreme weather events, while also serving as breeding and feeding grounds for various marine species.

Shri Iqbal, Forest Range Officer, explained about the initiatives undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to conserve wetlands. He elaborated the uniqueness of Pichavaram, one of the largest mangrove forests in India, and its critical role in sustaining local livelihoods, biodiversity, and coastal protection. He urged everyone to contribute to the protection of wetlands ecosystems.

One Thousand saplings of Rhizophora Spp. were planted by UG & PG Students of Faculty of Marie Science, Annamalai University, students of Government Higher Secondary Killai, Orphanages from Nambikkai Trust, Killai range forest officials and Mulukuthurai, Killai Irula Tribes. All the participants pledged to protect Wetlands Ecosystem and also to follow the LiFE Mission themes in their daily lives. Awareness posters and handouts highlighting the importance of wetlands were disseminated. 116 participants were sensitized.











03.02.2025:- Awareness Lectures and Competitions

ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP CP RP conducted a series of awareness programs and competitions for undergraduate students of the Faculty of Marine Sciences in collaboration with CASMB EIACP PC RP, Annamalai University and Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Cuddalore Division. The event focused to enhance students' understanding of wetland ecosystems, their significance, and conservation measures while encouraging active participation in environmental initiatives.

Dr. V. Kumaresan, Assistant Professor, warmly welcomed the students, EIACP staff, and forest officials to the event. His opening remarks set a positive tone, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between academic institutions, environmental organizations, and government agencies in addressing pressing environmental challenges. Dr. Kumaresan acknowledged the efforts of all present in promoting environmental awareness and conservation, encouraging active participation throughout the event. His welcoming speech not only recognized the significance of the gathering but also motivated attendees to work together towards a common goal of environmental sustainability and the protection of natural resources.

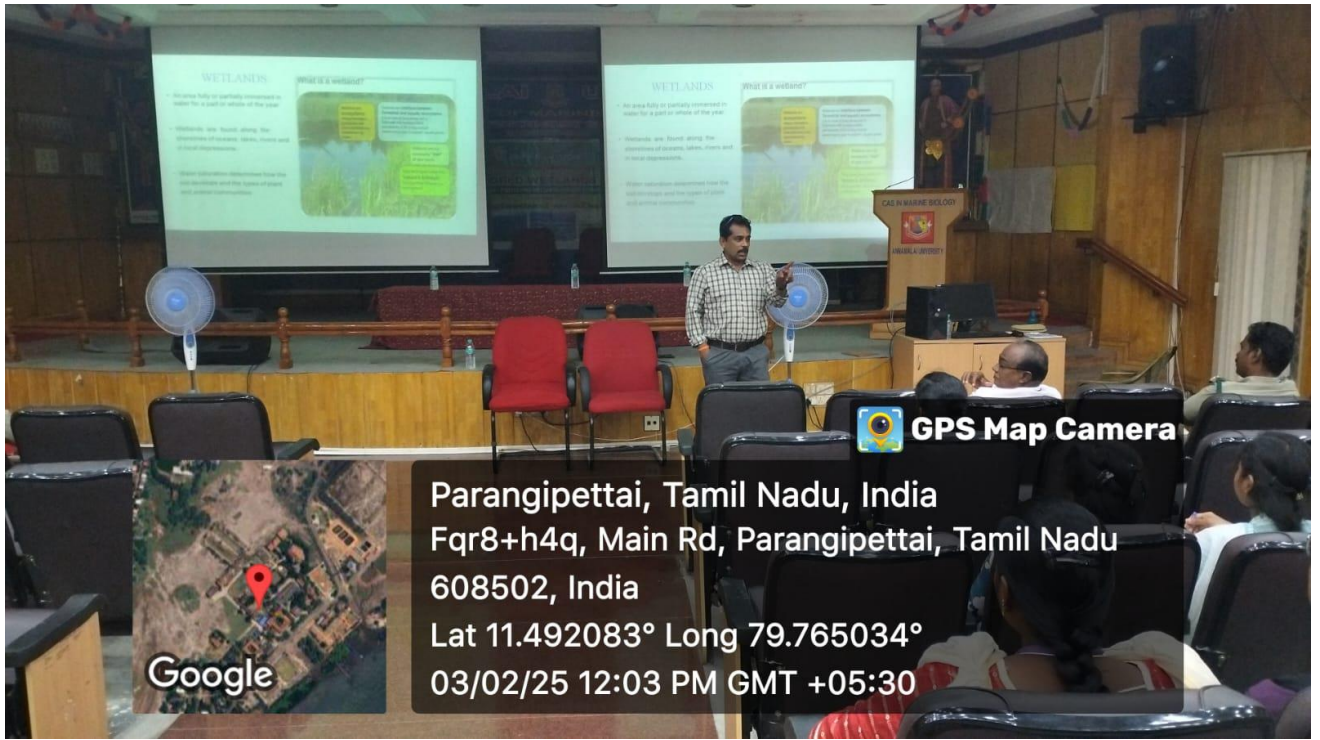
Dr. A. Saravanakumar, Associate Professor, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University, delivered an awareness lecture on the critical role of wetlands in environmental conservation. He explained the significance of wetlands and explained their diverse types, such as marshes, swamps, and floodplains, and their role as transitional zones between land and water ecosystems. He emphasized the vital ecological functions of wetlands, including supporting biodiversity, purifying water, and acting as carbon sinks. He underscored the need for urgent conservation efforts, advocating for legal protection, community involvement, and awareness campaigns. Through case studies and success stories, He also demonstrated how effective conservation can restore wetlands and protect them for future generations, inspiring the audience to become proactive in supporting wetland conservation initiatives.


Dr. S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP delivered an enlightening lecture on environmental conservation, focusing on its critical importance for the planet's health and sustainability. He began by defining conservation as the responsible management of natural resources to maintain ecological balance and safeguard biodiversity. Dr. Vigneswaran discussed key aspects such as preserving biodiversity, managing resources sustainably, reducing pollution, and mitigating climate change. He highlighted the urgent need for ecosystem restoration and stressed the importance of public education and engagement in conservation efforts. His lecture aimed to inspire the audience to actively participate in protecting the environment, emphasizing that conservation is essential not only for ecological well-being but also for the future of humanity. Furthermore, Dr. Vigneswaran highlighted the importance of wetlands in climate regulation, flood control, and water cycle management. However, he also shed light on the severe threats wetlands face, such as urbanization, pollution, and climate change, which endanger these ecosystems.

An In-house awareness quiz for students was conducted by Dr. S. Vigneswaran. 5 Teams were participated in the Quiz. Prizes were awarded to all the teams. The students were actively participated in the awareness quiz.

Shri Iqbal, Forest Range Officer, Killai Range in his vote of thanks, stressed the importance of protecting our natural ecosystems, urging the students to take responsibility in conserving the environment for future generations. He emphasized that the active participation of young minds in environmental initiatives like the mega plantation drive is crucial for preserving biodiversity and combating climate change. Shri Iqbal thanked the students for their involvement in the mass plantation drive at Pichavaram Ramsar Site, highlighting their contribution to the efforts of reforestation and ecological restoration. He encouraged the students to remain committed to environmental conservation and to continue being ambassadors of positive change in their communities.

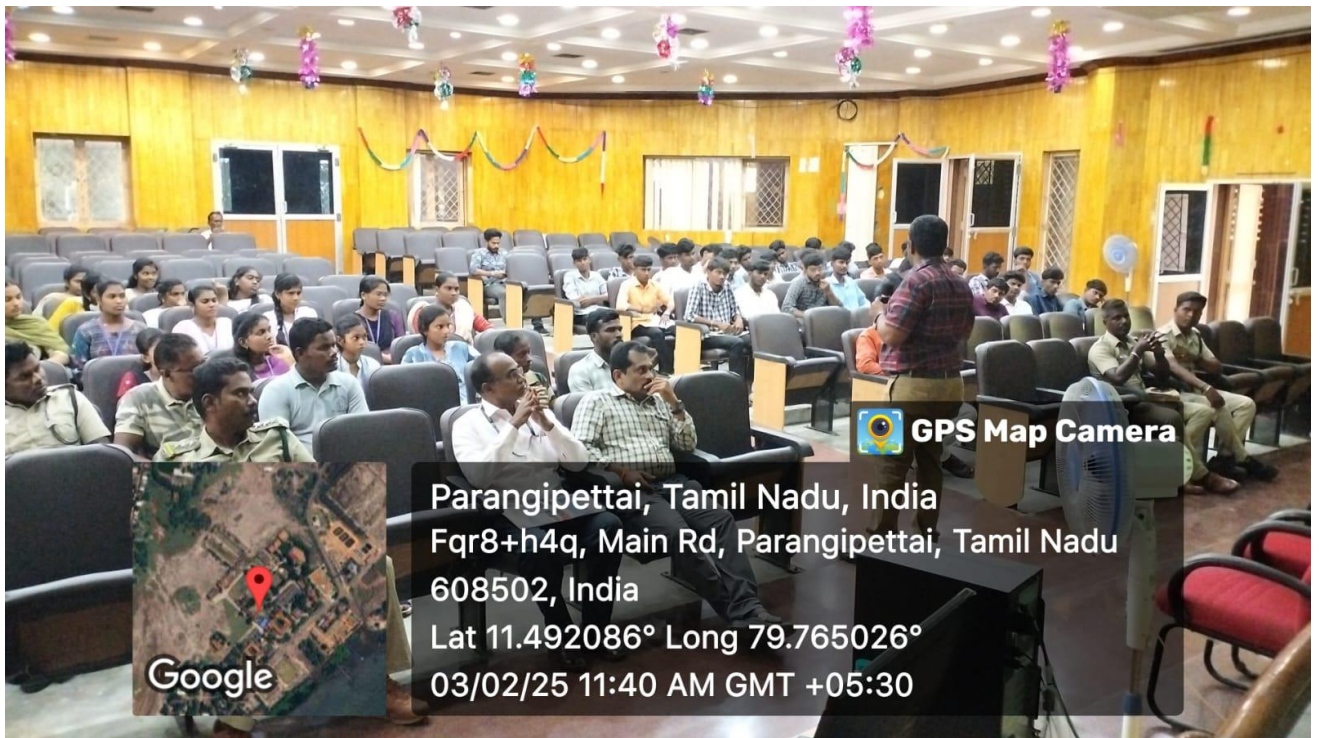




 **GPS Map Camera**

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 **GPS Map Camera**

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