



Report
on
**International Day for the
Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2023**



Organized 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 Ozone Day 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As part of Mission LiFE and in connection with International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2023, 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 organized awareness campaigns. The main aim of these events was to raise awareness about the significance of ozone layer among students and the general public.

The event began with Prakruthi Vandanam, an invocation on nature in Sanskrit based on Yajur Veda composed by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator. During his awareness lecture, Dr Warriar explained that the stratospheric ozone layer shields Earth from most of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation and makes, life on this planet possible. When scientists working in the late 1970s discovered that humanity was creating a hole in this protective shield, caused by ozone-depleting substances used in aerosols and cooling, they raised the alarm. While giving insight to the current year's theme "Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone layer and reducing climate change"

Dr Warriar highlighted that India has been successfully implementing the phase-out programme for the Ozone Depleting Substances in the country wherein the Chlorofluorocarbon, Carbon tetrachloride, and Halons have been phased out. One chlorine atom can disintegrate one lakh molecules of Ozone! If the density of the ozone layer falls below 220 Dobson units, it is considered as Ozone Hole. Dobson is the unit to measure ozone layer density in the stratosphere. The Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners, and many other products. Governments, scientists, and industries worked together for it. As a result, the abundance of Ozone Depleting Substances in the atmosphere is declining and a recent study has indicated that the ozone layer is recovering. At the time of its inception in 1987, only 24 countries were party to the Montreal Protocol. However, at present all the member countries of the UN are signatories to this. And it is predicted that the ozone hole will vanish if we follow the Montreal Protocol in the right sense, he added. The latest update from the Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol confirmed that ozone layer recovery is on track and ozone levels are expected to return to 1980 levels by around 2066 over the Antarctic.

During her special address, Dr R. Yasodha, Group Coordinator Research, brought attention about the immense impacts the Montreal Protocol. She insisted that the ozone hole shall vanish at the earliest if we follow the Montreal Protocol in the right sense. The ozone layer is a crucial component of the Earth's atmosphere, and its preservation is essential for the well-being of life on our planet, she added. Dr Yasodha explained that India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action Plan (India Cooling Action Plan) that has a long-term vision to

address the cooling requirement across sectors and list out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director ICFRE-IFGTB inaugurated the awareness campaign and delivered a lecture on the significance of Ozone layer. During his lecture, he spoke about the importance of the ozone layer. He explained that protecting the ozone layer also protects Earth's vegetation and may help prevent the planet from global warming. Four decades ago, scientists warned that a hole in the layer of ozone surrounding the earth could have serious effects on human health and the environment. But through domestic and international action, the ozone layer is healing and should fully recover by about 2065, he added. The Director further urged all the citizens to contribute to the protection of the ozone layer and do whatever possible to protect the environment.

As part of this commemoration various awareness campaigns and activities were conducted to school students, college students, leading industries and general public. A lecture series for students for PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore, Avinashilingam Deemed University, Coimbatore and S.T Hindu College, Nagarcoil were organized. The lecture series commenced with a presentation on "Sacred Groves" delivered by Dr Kannan C.S Warriar, Senior Principal Scientist and EIACP Coordinator. Following this, Dr. S. Vigneswaran, SPO gave a lecture on the LiFE Mission. During the event, students had the opportunity to visit various nurseries and explore the Gass Forest Museum. Additionally, documentaries on the LiFE Mission and the significance of ozone were screened to enhance students' understanding. Informational materials aimed at raising awareness about these important initiatives were also distributed among the attendees.

In addition, a photography competition on the theme "Adaptation of LiFE Mission activities in household" was conducted from 01.09.2023 to 15.09.2023 in which people from different walks of life participated. E certificates were awarded to all of them. An awareness poster highlighting the significance of current year's theme was also released during the occasion. Copies of the awareness poster and handouts were distributed to students and the general public and the softcopies were electronically transmitted to various stakeholders. Dr M.A Vijaya, Assistant Professor Department of Business Administration, Avinashilingam Deemed University proposed the vote of thanks.















**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

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

Theme: Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone layer and reducing climate change

The most recent report from the Scientific Assessment Panel associated with the Montreal Protocol reaffirms that the recovery of the ozone layer is proceeding as planned. Projections indicate that ozone levels over the Antarctic are on a positive trajectory, with expectations that they will reach 1980 levels by approximately 2066. This progress is a testament to the international community's dedication to preserving our planet's vital protective shield.



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