





## One day training Program on "Environment and Nature Conservation" to Baralikadu Ecotourism under Prakriti Organized by ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

A one day training program was organized by ICFRE-IFGTB on 'Environment and Nature Conservation' to Baralikadu Ecotourism under Prakriti program for Government School students on 26.02.2024. In total of 30 students (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> standard) from Government High School, Thollampalayam and Government Higher Secondary School, Karamadai were participated. The purpose of this visit is to create awareness on environment and connecting the students with nature.

Shri G.R. Madhavraj, IFS, welcomed the students and teachers for this one day training program. Shri Naveen, Wild Life Biologist delivered a talk on different forest types in Tamil Nadu with species distribution. He explained in detail about tangible and intangible benefits of forests to the mankind. He briefed about the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and its concept and functions. School students were exposed to different tree species and its economic uses like timber, small timber, fodder, medicinal value, etc. Also, he touches on how forests helps in maintaining sustainable income and livelihood to the forest fringe villagers.

During the program, students were exposed to river eco-system along with different trees and its ecology. At the same time, he requested the students to visit Protected areas for gaining knowledge on wild animals and their role in maintaining the ecological balance.

During his talk, he highlighted about elephant corridors and need of its protection to avoid man animal conflicts. Wildlife biologist explained about various reasons for man animal conflicts and possible ways to minimize the conflicts. He briefed about the need of protection of Elephants and its ecological role in maintaining the healthy environment.

Shri G.R. Madhavraj, IFS, explained about the Project Tiger, Govt. of India's initiative to protect the tiger and increase the tiger population in the Tiger Reserves. He expressed that, Tiger is very important animal and occupying top position in the pyramid. If we protect the tiger, automatically the entire forest and wildlife will be protected automatically and the forest is intact.

During the programme, the students were highly interactive. Students were taken to coracle ride.





