

**NATIONAL GREEN CORPS ECO-CLUBS OBSERVE
WORLD FORESTRY DAY
ON 21ST MARCH, 2007**

REPORT

Programme Organizer	Centre of Environment Education - North East (CEE-NE) Guwahati
Programme Host	Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok
Programme Coordinator	DFO (LU & E) and ENVIS Centre Sikkim
Programme Venue	Forest Conference Hall and Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok

It all began in 1978 in the history of Sikkim, when the Department of Forest observed World Forestry Day for the first time, felicitating Forest Officers in their stride of Sustainable Forest Management. No doubt, as history repeats itself, this year also World Forestry Day was celebrated on 21st day of March with great pomp and zeal.

The basic theme for this year's observation was brought forward by the National Green Corps Programme for School Eco-Clubs in Sikkim. Ms. Memma Singha with her team from CEE-NE, Guwahati actively organized the programme with the aim to spread environmental awareness among

the school children focusing on action oriented programme through active involvement of students. The department of Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management hosted the programme in its own Conference Hall. Shri C.B.Bhujel, DFO (LU & E) with the assistance of the ENVIS team coordinated the programme. The PCCF-cum-Secretary, Forests, Shri D.B.Shrestha presided on the function as the Chief Guest. All the officers and staffs of the host organization attended the programme. However, the primary participants were the enthusiastic students from eight schools in and around Gangtok in absence of whom the programme would have no value.

Following is the list of Schools that participated in the programme.

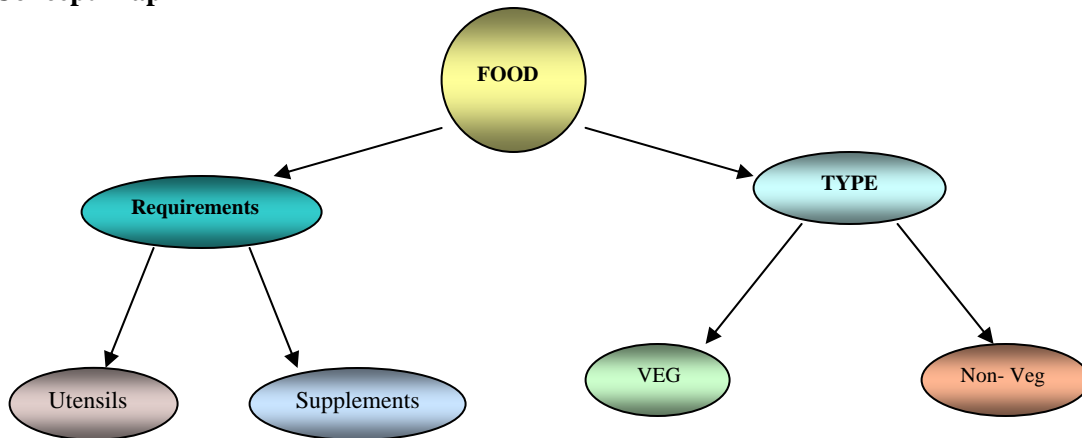
Sl. No.	Name of School	Number of Participants
1.	Modern School	5 with a teacher Incharge
2.	Enchey Sr. Sec. School	5 with a teacher Incharge
3.	P.N.G.S.S.S	5 with a teacher Incharge
4.	Deorali Girls School	5 with a teacher Incharge
5.	T.N.S.S.S	5 with a teacher Incharge
6.	West Point Sr. Sec School	5 with a teacher Incharge
7.	Tathangchen Sr. Sec. School	5 with a teacher Incharge
8.	Tadong Sr. Sec. School	5 with a teacher Incharge

The programme began with a welcome note by Shri. C.B.Bhujhel, DFO (LU & E). He highlighted the importance of World Forestry Day as it aims to provide opportunities to people to learn how forests can be managed and used sustainably for many purposes. He further stated that, World Forestry Day is celebrated around the world on 21st March, the day of vernal equinox. Scientifically the duration of day and night is same on this day, that's the reason, plants receives more sunlight for photosynthesis, so he placed a logical concept for celebrating World Forest Day on 21st March.

Ms. Memma Singha, from CEE-NE was very focused on action oriented programme to bring about environmental awareness among the students. Everyone needs forests in some way. So it is the upcoming generations to be environmentally

aware of three key facets of forestry; **protection**, **production** and **recreation**. She highlighted the action of National Green Corps Programme all over the country in its effort to environment education. This programme is also active within Sikkim and efforts are being made to raise funds to bring about environment awareness from the grass hoot level. She interacted with the students explaining theoretically about the concept mapping taking food as an example. A concept map in relation with food was drawn on the black board explaining necessary requisite as shown below. The students were then given a task to draw a concept map taking Forest and Wildlife as an instance. This activity was basically conducted to test the level of environmental awareness amongst the students. The participation of students was highly spiritual and lively.

Concept Map



Shri. M.L.Arrawatia, Addl. PCCF (Env.) addressed the mass sharing all the valuable information and concept of having World Forestry Day. Reviewing history, he focused that World Forest Day was originated at the World General Assembly of the Europe Confederation of Agriculture in 1971 which in turn was supported by United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization to create awareness among the people. He informed that National Green Corps Programme has been assisting

486 School Eco-clubs working actively all over Sikkim to bring about environment education among the students. He also added that the National Green Corps Programme had provided a sum of Rupees Twenty Five Hundred for each School Eco-club in Sikkim as an initiative during the financial year 2006-07. He also encouraged the students to enhance greenery by planting and protecting the same until safely adapted to their environment.

Dr. Awasthe from ICAR, Tadong with his power point presentation shared his concept regarding "Rain Water Harvesting". During his explanation, he made us aware that India comes in 2nd position in the management of fresh water and taught us how to harvest rain water efficiently in house chiefly. He shared various techniques that could be suitably adopted to preserve rain water for several purposes. Indeed, the world today should be aware of next coming years and prepare ourselves to face environmental challenges. The proportion of water for human usage in next 10-20 years would be a matter of concern if appropriate measures are not taken, he added.

After which, it was the Hon'ble Chief Guest Shri. D. B. Shrestha, PCCF-cum-Secretary, who shared his experience in his role of forestry with very fine words of wisdom. He stated that the first World Forestry Day in Sikkim was celebrated in 1978 at Palzor stadium in a grant style. He had observed the first celebration as an ACF. From then till his chairmanship at present he has had different roles which he shared by uttering quotes of *Bhagwat Geeta* dragging up the mind and soul of audience in the world of peace, inspiring every observer to evoke their potential to do good work which he himself considered as *Dharma*. He stated that every citizen should opt for such *dharma* to do good work towards sustainable forest management. He was primarily focused in encouraging the students to be aware of the environment. He interacted with the students educating them with their valuable role towards maintaining

greenery and pollution free. The only source of unpolluted air is forests, he added. Forests are sources of many products and services. They employ men and women in industries ranging from timber to tourism. They provide habitat for wildlife and fuel for bushfires. The world's poorest people rely on food from forests for cooking, heating and lighting. He also described the importance of forest and its role in supporting ecosystem. He displayed a very unique and effective style in his own mother tongue i.e. Nepali, uttering phrases, some of which is placed below.

हरियो वन देशको धन सवैको साझा हो
कलकले झरना, विभुद्ध वायु, सवैको साझा हो
विरूवा रोपी सवैले गरौं, वनको विकाश
हरियो बाँचोस, सदैव धरती, छोएर आंकाश ।

गोठाला दाईले कुराउनी खायो चाँपको पातेमा
सिरिस फुल्यो, बासना चल्यो, जुनेली रतैमा
टिपेर फुल, ए सानी नानी केशमा सजाऊ
रोपेर वोट बजाँउ वन, भनेर सुनाऊ ।

He concluded his speech on a very high note by requesting all the attendees to stand and take the following oath.

म निष्ठापूर्वक प्रतिज्ञा गर्छु
कि म, सर्व - साधारण जन-मानसमा
वन, वन्य-प्राणी औ प्राकृतिक सम्पदको
संरक्षण र सुरक्षा प्रति जन-चेतना
प्रोत्साहित गर्दै, आफै पनि यसमा
पुणरूपले सहभागी बनेछु ।

After the lunch session, students were taken to Himalayan Zoological Park in order to conduct the field activities. The students were then categorized into six groups as given below.

Group #	Group Designation	Group Strength
1	Red Panda	3
2	Bamboo	2
3	Human Population 1930-50	5
4	Human Population 1950-80	8
5	Human Population 1980-00	10
6	Human Population 2000-10	12

There after, many pieces of paper were scattered in the ground. In each paper, one of the four essential materials for sustaining life on Earth i.e. Air, Water, Food and Shelter was written. At first Red Panda and Bamboo groups were asked to pick up the papers and they were observed to have sufficient pieces of papers having food, air, water, and shelter depicting the example that there is very less competition for survival of Red Panda and Bamboo species before the arrival of human population. When all human population with Red Panda and Bamboo groups were asked to pick up the papers then bamboo group could not get a single piece so they were assumed to be extinct. So questions were raised that if bamboo was extinct could panda survive? Then with this short play, it was finally concluded that human's activities render the plants to be endangered and finally to the state of extinction which also has direct impact on the survival of animals. This activity reflected the Darwin's theory of "Survival of Fittest" and "Struggle of Existence".

In the next session, students were sent to observe animals and plants having spots and stripes. This activity was undertaken to test the

observation skills of the students. At the end of the competition, the schools were adjudged as follows:

Rank	School
1 st	West Point School
2 nd	Thathangchen Sr. Sec. School
3 rd	P.N.G.S.S.S & Deorali Girls School

Consolation prizes were awarded to rest of the schools for their active participation. The programme then came to conclusion on a very high note when Master Simon Rai, a student of standard X from Enchey Sr. Sec. School delivered his commitments for this important day through a self composed poem.

*Today, Some for Good Day,
Some for Bad Day
Today is Forest's Happy Birthday
So let us Celebrate World Forestry Day
and
Think in this matter deep and deep
Well, Let us live and let others live.*

Report By

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(On Status of Environment & its Related Issues)

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