

Report on World Environment Day 2024

Theme: “*Land restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience*”

Slogan: “*Our land. Our future. We are Generation Restoration*”

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Introduction

As we all know, June 5th is celebrated annually as World Environment Day (WED), the largest event focussed on the environment coordinated by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to spread awareness, to take measures for the environmental protection leading to a bright and sustainable future.

Theme of WED 2024

Every year events are organised based on a specific environmental issue and activities to rehabilitate natural habitats are planned to reduce environmental degradation and thereby restoring land and ecosystem. On this year it is focussed on “Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience” with the Theme - "Our Land. Our Future. We are #Generation Restoration."

To commemorate this year’s Environment Day program, various activities are organised in Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. Activities began with the planting of sapling followed by Oath taking in the forenoon session continued by online talk as part of KSDMA Talk Series of two distinguished personalities who are actively involved in Land Restoration in the afternoon session.

The online session was hosted and moderated by Arya Krishnan (Environment Planner) and supported by Amrutha (HA Environment). On the 1st session Mr. Anandan Pokkudan had shared views and thoughts about the “*Mangrove Restoration and Conservation in Kerala*” and Ms. Vani Vijith had shared about her perspective about “*Organic Paradise in Kerala - A true Model*” in the 2nd session. Online Session started by 2.30 PM and ended by 4.30 PM.

Planting of Sapling

The celebration started off by planting saplings at our office premises by our Member Secretary, **Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose** along with **Mr. Jayachandran A.** Chief Manager, **Mr. Jose A.** Administrative Manager, **Mr. Ajmal S.** Office Manager and the members of the KSDMA family.



Oath Taking

After planting of sapling all members of KSDMA assembled in front of office for oath taking.

Pledge for Environment Day 2024

Today on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024, I solemnly affirm that:

- I will dedicate to the cause of protection of environment
- I will make all possible changes in my daily life to protect the environment.
- I will keep my neighbourhood clean.
- I will conserve and cherish Water, Soil, Flora and Fauna.
- I will not pollute the environment or degrade the quality of our air, soil or water by the improper disposal of waste.
- I will not involve in any activities leading to land degradation.
- I pledge to mitigate the menace of Climate Change and create a better planet for future generations.

2024-ലെ പരിസ്ഥിതി ദിനത്തിനായുള്ള പ്രതിജ്ഞ

ഇന്ന് 2024-ലെ ലോക പരിസ്ഥിതി ദിനത്തിൽ, ഞാൻ പ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്യുന്നു:

- പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി ഞാൻ പ്രവർത്തിക്കും.
- പരിസ്ഥിതിയെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായി എന്റെ ദൈനംദിന ജീവിതത്തിൽ സാധ്യമായ എല്ലാ മാറ്റങ്ങളും ഞാൻ കൊണ്ടുവരും.
- ഞാൻ എന്റെ പരിസരം വൃത്തിയാക്കി സൂക്ഷിക്കും.
- ജലം, മണ്ണ്, സസ്യജന്തുജാലങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയെ ഞാൻ സംരക്ഷിക്കുകയും പരിപാലിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും.
- മാലിന്യങ്ങൾ ശരിയായ രീതിയിൽ നീക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലൂടെ ഞാൻ പരിസ്ഥിതിയെ മലിനമാക്കുകയോ നമ്മുടെ വായുവ്/നീറയോ മണ്ണിന്റെയോ വെള്ളത്തിന്റെയോ ഗുണനിലവാരം നശിപ്പിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുകയില്ല.
- ഭൂമിയെ ശോഷണത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രവർത്തനത്തിലും ഞാൻ ഇടപെടില്ല.
- കാലാവസ്ഥ വ്യതിയാനത്തിന്റെ വിപത്ത് ലഘൂകരിക്കാനും ഭാവി തലമുറകൾക്കായി ഒരു മികച്ച വാസസ്ഥാനം സൃഷ്ടിക്കാനും ഞാൻ പ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്യുന്നു.



KSDMA Talk Series

Session 1: “*Mangrove Restoration and Conservation in Kerala*” - By Mr. Anandan Pokkudan



Mr. Anandan Pokkudan

Mr. Anandan Pokkudan, Mangrove Conservator, Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove Tree Trust is the son of Mr. Kallen Pokkudan recognised as “The Mangrove Man of India”, who was one of the pioneers of environmental activities and an environmentalist who worked at the forefront of protecting mangrove forests, known as the Lungs of Nature, in Kannur district and later worked and spread awareness in many places in the State.

In this Session, he shared about his father’s journey in the conservation of these mangroves and the hurdles faced from the various sectors as well. During the initial phase he searched for mangrove seeds and had chosen Rhizophora and collected long stick-like seeds of this plant and planted the mature seedlings along riverbeds and public spaces in his village. He had set up a mangrove nursery and organized awareness campaigns.

He conveyed about the importance of seed selection and how to generate a good seed after exposing to the wind action, about the importance of soil in Kerala, protection of coastal regions by mangrove covers as a natural solution, how it is helping fisherman society and how it helps in development of marine ecosystem and its role in food chain, how it acts as shelter for migrant birds, how it acts as a sea wall etc. He had shared his concern that even if there is a wide scope of development in this field, concerned authorities are not concentrating for the

nature-based solutions that mangroves offer for the various disasters that our land had faced during the years.

The session was followed by a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Amrutha K. HA (Env.).



Session 2: “*Organic Paradise in Kerala - A true Model*” - By Ms. Vani Vijith



Ms. Vani Vijith

Ms. Vani Vijith is a natural eco farmer, Environmental Activist and Co-founder of Prakrithi Jaiva Kalavara, Ruchira Prakrithi foods, Vasu Jaivaganam in Danapady, Haripad, Onattukara Region Agro ecological zone, Alappuzha District, Kerala. Mr. Vijith & Ms. Vani Vijith had proved that sustainable living is not impractical and are living in harmony with nature.

With the strong desire for agriculture which was inherited from her family had moulded her in building up a sustainable ecosystem in such a way as we see now. In the 4.5-acre sustainable farmland at Vani's native place at Haripad, we can see over 5,000 trees, over 3,000 varieties of vegetables, fruits, rare plants, medicinal herbs, ornamental plants, 32 bamboo variants, various breeds of cows, goats, hens, duck, fish, birds, dense kaavu, three biogas plants, solar plants, nine ponds and a rooftop rainwater harvesting system. Following the traditional practices of mixed farming and applying organic manure and compost for the crops, had helped them to fight pest attack. She had conveyed the struggles faced from her family in dropping her chance for getting a degree in medicine for her urge in agriculture.

She had shared her experiences and struggles faced in attaining her passion and in dropping her chance for pursuing degree in medicine. With her strong desire she was able to face all the hindrances in the path of life.

She had shared the scope, concept and challenges in sustainable agricultural practices from her experience being an organic farmer and also exchanged information about development of agricultural land and farmland, water resources, Irrigation/ Drainage Management, Agricultural Diversification for agricultural development, indigenous and endangered crop cultivation, sustainable development, aerobic composting for Carbon Sequestration, integrated farming system, biodiversity conservation, micro climate regulation, preservation of endangered species of flora and fauna etc. It was really enthusiastic to hear about the attainment of 17 sustainable development goals through their hardwork and her dream to attain Sustainable Agricultural Goals like Geriatric – Paediatric linkage with horticulture therapy, responsible farm tourism, Social Assets formation, Eco-spirituality, Self-Reliable, Self-Sustainable Agricultural practices, evolution of nutraceuticals through sustainable value-added agricultural products.

The session was followed by a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Amrutha K. HA (Env.). The program concluded at 4.30 PM.



The Way Forward: -

World Environment Day serves as a catalyst for future environmental sustainability initiatives and in promoting environmental protection. Knowledge sharing programs about various environmental aspects through talk series, webinars, workshops, conferences, site visits, conducting events and campaigns from the perspective of disaster resilience can be organised in future in KSDMA, DDMA's and for public as well. Disasters in one way or the other has direct or indirect link with the environment. Environmental disasters can have a lessening effect with increased knowledge and awareness. Experiences and knowledge sharing, when combined with that of other specialists in their respective fields, may make it easier to put best practices for environmental protection into action, lessening the devastation caused by natural disasters.

Organisers of the event in KSDMA: -

Dr. Midhila Mallika, State Project Officer
Ms. Arya Krishnan, Environment Planner
Ms. Amrutha K., Hazard Analyst (Environment)

*"Together, we can make a difference for our planet.
Our earth is our future, and we are the restoration of our generation."*