



---

## Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity-2022

---

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022 at the Institute. About 70 people including scientists, officers, employees, project staff and participants from different organization participated the programme physically (50) and virtually (20). Dr. Jagdish Singh informed that every year this day is celebrated on different themes, and this year International Day of Biological diversity is being made on the theme of “Building a Common Future for All Life”. Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, HFRI, Shimla, as a keynote speaker, discussed in detail the "Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) Biodiversity". He told that IHR is a biodiversity hot spot, which is spread over an area of 5.3 lakh m<sup>2</sup> and 21 forest types are found here. He informed in details about the status of biodiversity, value, ecosystem services, and reasons for the loss of biodiversity, impact of climate change on biodiversity, sustainable use and conservation need of research on various aspects, especially the conservation of biodiversity of the IHR. He further told that there are 18,940 plant species and > 30,000 faunal species in the IHR. Out of the total plants, 6745 are angiosperms species and out of which, 3174 are of species medicinal value and 925 are edible species. Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist, HFRI, Shimla delivered a lecture on Himalayan Degradation and its impacts on Native Himalayan Biodiversity. He told that population growth, global warming, excessive grazing and uncontrolled tourism are adversely affecting the biodiversity of the Himalayan region. He compared the 'Biodiversity of the Northwest Himalaya' in the past and present. He cited the examples of Shimla City and told that many species such as *Lilium polyphyllum* (lilly), Orchids, etc., were found in abundance in the Deodar forests of Shimla, but now Lilly is not found from the area. Dr. Sandeep Sharma GCR also expressed his views and stressed upon to adopt innovative ideas such as enrichment of soil to conserve biodiversity. Dr. Suman, FRLHT Bangaluru, suggested for making young children aware of the biodiversity around them for sustainable conservation of biological diversity. During the question answer session, the participants freely interacted with the resource persons and very fruitful discussions were held on how to save the Biological Diversity for the welfare of humankind. The program ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Jagdish Singh, HoD extension.