Department of Botany, North Gauhati College

Session: 2024 – 2025

Events (Workshops/Seminars/ Extension activities organized)

"Two-Days Workshop on Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) Plants"

A two-day workshop on Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) plants was successfully organized, providing an insightful platform for students and researchers to enhance their knowledge on plant conservation and sustainable use.



Day 1: 5th October 2024

Resource Person: Prof. Nilakshi Devi

Biodata of the resource person:

Currently holds the position of Professor in the Department of Botany, Gauhati University. She had headed the department and chaired the Faculty of Science as Dean. Recently, conferred with the prestigious "Dr. T.M. Hynniewta Biodiversity Gold Medal Award" by the East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy for the year 2023. Her area of research interests is Plant Taxonomy, Palynology, Ethnobotany, Medicinal plants.

She has published more than 60 research papers in International and National journals, authored 12 book chapters, completed 3 research projects. In her credit she along with hers scholars discovered the species *Syzygium namborensis*, new to the world. She has rediscovered *Aponogeton lakhonensis* (after 123 years) and *Eranthemum burmanicum* from India, recollected and recorded several significant plants from Assam and North East like *Sterculia striatiflora* (aftern 100 years), *Ceropegia lucida* (a luminous lantern flower), *Syzygium diospyrifolium* (after 109 years), *Impatiens bracteolata* and three Blumea species. She has lectotypified two recondite names in the genus *Syzygium* Gaertn.

Prof. Devi is a member of several professional bodies like, Botanical Society of Assam, East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy (EHSST), Academy of Plant Sciences, Indian Aerobiological Society, International Society for Conservation of Natural resources (ISCON) and Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy. She has experienced as member of Executive Council of Botanical Society of Assam, Indian Aerobiological Society and EHSST.

Report of the lecture:

The workshop commenced on 5th October 2024. The inaugural session of the workshop began with the felicitation session of the dignitaries. Prof. Nilakshi Devi, from the Department of Botany, Gauhati University, graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. She delivered an engaging lecture on the importance of RET plants, their ecological significance, and the challenges in their conservation.

Prof. Devi highlighted the need for collective efforts in addressing the threats faced by these plants due to habitat destruction, overexploitation, and climate change. Her expertise and presentation sparked thoughtful discussions among the attendees.







Later in the day, Dr. Rupam Sankar Baruah, from Assam Bioresource Centre, delivered a brief but impactful lecture, shedding light on the innovative strategies for documenting and protecting RET plant species. His talk was highly appreciated for its practical approach and relevance to regional biodiversity.



The day also included a mid-morning tea break and a lunch break, providing participants an opportunity to network and exchange ideas in a relaxed setting.



Attendance of the participants:

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Day 2: 19th October 2024

The second day was initially scheduled to take place on 8th October 2024. But due to the weather conditions, it was postponed to 19th October 2024. The second day of the workshop took place at the Assam Bioresource Centre, Madan Kamdev Rd. The program began with a Power Point presentation by Dr. Rupam Sankar Baruah, who delved deeper into the topic, focusing on case studies of RET plants in Assam. His presentation was well-structured, combining theoretical insights with field data, making it highly informative for the participants.







Following the presentation, Dr. Baruah led the participants on a guided tour of the garden at the Assam Bioresource Centre. The students had a hands-on experience identifying RET plant species and learning about their habitats and growth requirements. This practical session added immense value to the workshop, as it bridged the gap between theory and practice.

The second day also featured a well-organized lunch, ensuring participants remained refreshed and energized throughout the sessions.

A total number of 20 fruit bearing plant saplings were also planted during the workshop period.





Attendance of the participants:

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Certification Day: 29th October 2024

The workshop concluded with a certification ceremony held on 29th October 2024. Certificates of participation were distributed to all attendees in recognition of their active involvement. The ceremony celebrated the success of the workshop and acknowledged the contributions of the speakers and organizers.





Conclusion

The two-day workshop was a resounding success, fostering awareness and understanding of RET plants among the participants. The lectures and practical sessions provided a comprehensive overview of the subject, emphasizing the importance of conservation efforts. The collaboration of esteemed speakers, engaging sessions, and interactive discussions made the event both educational and memorable.

Such initiatives play a crucial role in nurturing future botanists and conservationists, ensuring that the rich biodiversity of Assam and beyond is preserved for generations to come.