

Field-Based Training for Postgraduate Students



Dr. Amitha Bachan KH

21 | June, 2024



On 21 June 2024, a comprehensive field-based training program was conducted by CEtC hornbill foundation and Research department of Botany for the postgraduate students of the Department of Botany. This training was specifically designed for students undertaking their final-year projects in the domains of ecology and taxonomy. The session was led by Dr. Amitha Bachan K. H., Assistant Professor, and Devika M Anilkumar, PhD Scholar in the Department of Botany.

The training session took place in the Vazhachal Rainforest, a biodiversity hotspot known for its rich and varied flora and fauna.

During the session, students were introduced to critical field data collection techniques such as:

- 1. Plot Data Collection:** Students learned how to systematically establish study plots to gather quantitative and qualitative data on vegetation.
- 2. GPS Data Utilization:** Training was provided on the use of GPS devices for accurately mapping field locations and geospatial documentation.
- 3. Biodiversity Assessment:** Techniques for identifying and cataloging plant species in the rainforest ecosystem were demonstrated.

The pristine environment served as an ideal outdoor classroom for students to gain hands-on experience in fieldwork and data collection techniques. The training emphasized practical methodologies that are essential for ecological and taxonomic research.

The training was attended by students involved in diverse research projects, including but not limited to:

- **Riparian Plant Propagation:** Students working on propagating plants native to riparian ecosystems gained insights into site-specific challenges and restoration techniques.
- **Geospatial Mapping:** Participants engaged in projects involving advanced geospatial tools and technologies benefited from guidance on integrating spatial data with ecological research.
- **Conservation of Threatened Plants:** The session provided practical knowledge on strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of rare and endangered plant species.



Dr. Bachan emphasized the importance of precision, scientific rigor, and ethical practices in field-based research. He also highlighted the role of field training in bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, preparing students to address contemporary challenges in ecology and conservation.

The Department aims to continue organizing such field-based training programs to nurture the next generation of ecologists and taxonomists.

By providing students with access to high-quality training and exposure to cutting-edge research techniques, the department reinforces its commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering environmental stewardship.



The training for seed collection, bird watching and sample plot preparation were carried out. Bird-watching on the threatened tree provides a fascinating glimpse into the complex interactions between flora and fauna. The primary objective of this bird-watching session was to identify the bird species that frequent the Aporosa tree, observe their behaviors, and understand their role in the ecosystem.

In conclusion, the field-based training conducted on 21 June 2024 was a resounding success. It not only equipped postgraduate students with essential skills but also inspired them to pursue meaningful contributions to the fields of ecology and taxonomy. The Vazhachal Rainforest, with its unparalleled ecological significance, proved to be an ideal setting for this transformative educational experience.



<https://www.hornbillfoundation.org>

CETC hornbill foundation and Research Department of Botany