



World Environment Day Report

Theme: Ecosystem Restoration

05-06-2021

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In **1972**, the UN General Assembly designated **5 June** as **World Environment Day**. The first celebration, under the slogan “**Only One Earth**” took place in **1974**. In the following years, WED has developed as a platform to raise awareness on the problems facing our environment such as air pollution, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sustainable consumption, sea-level increase, and food security, among others. The theme for 2021 environment day is “**Ecosystem Restoration**”.

To support the cause of “Ecosystem Restoration” and to spread awareness, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority decided to celebrate the day with various programs. Due to the present pandemic situation, the programs were restricted to within our office premises and to our staffs while following strict COVID-19 protocols. The celebration started off by planting saplings at our office premises by our Member Secretary, Dr. Sekar L Kuriakose. He shared his thought of transforming the vegetation cover in our compound by planting more of native plants and trees species, and slowly in a phased manner replacing all the existing alien species of plants.



Planting tree by Member Secretary

Later in the afternoon an online session was organized for the KSDMA staffs, HA’s from all the DDMA’s and LSG DM Plan coordinators for sensitising the importance of the day. The session started at 2.30 PM and Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA welcomed all the participants. Dr. Kowsigan IAS, Commissioner Disaster Management gave

the introductory remarks to the participants and shared his message on Environment protection and restoration. The online session was formally inaugurated by Dr.V.Venu IAS, Additional Chief Secretary-Environment and Climate Change. He in his inaugural speech, elucidated the importance of our environment and the significance of reviving our mother nature. The online session was hosted by Vignesh K R (Environment Planner) and moderated by Amrutha (HA Environment). The integral part of the online program was the sessions handled by two external speakers. The speakers were Mr. Abdul Kareem and Mr. Teddy Cx. Both the speakers shared their thoughts and views in the field of environmental protection.

Session 1:

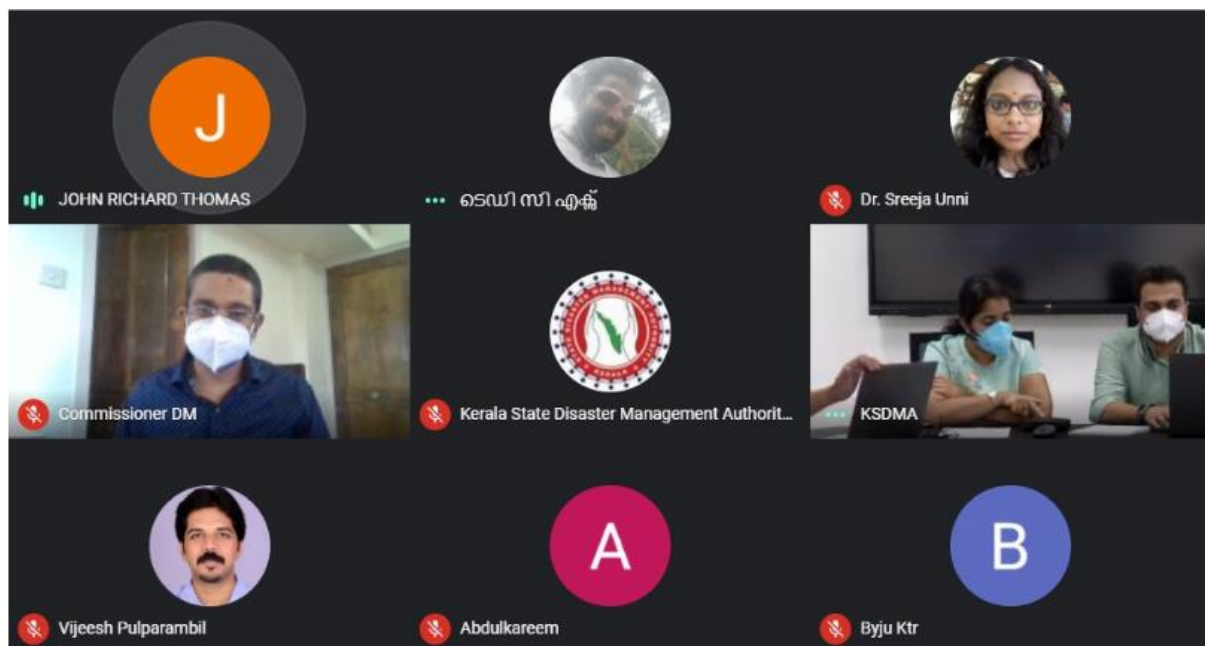
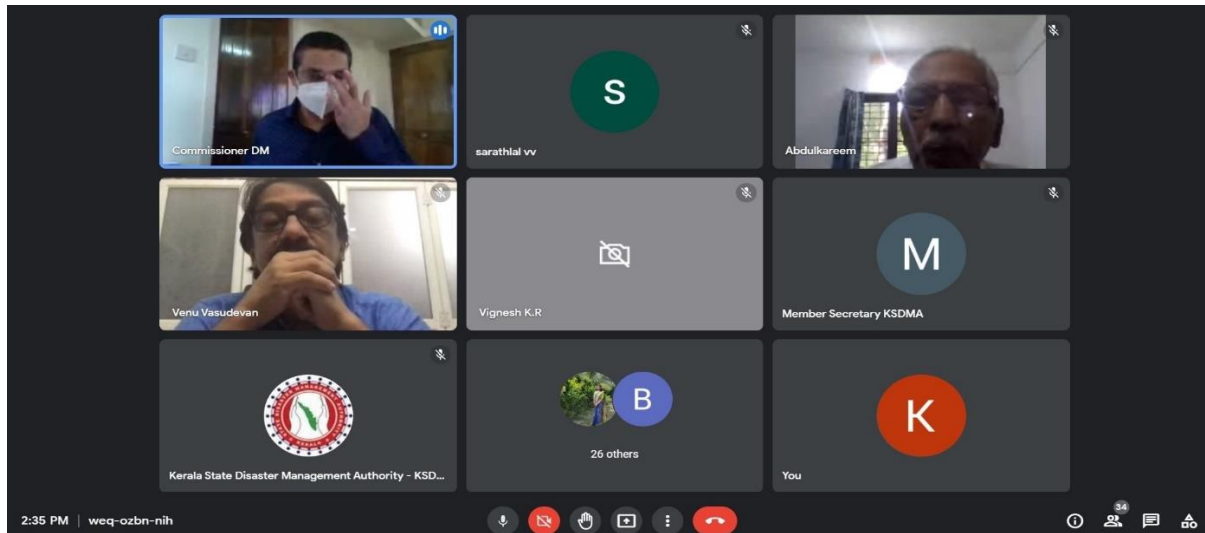
Mr. Abdul Kareem, Forest Kareen and Forest Man of Kerala hails from Parappa a small village in Kasaragod District. He created a forest ecosystem in 32 acres of land. As a gulf expatriate, he returned to his native in 1977 and with the inspiration from the UAE ruler who transformed the sandy deserts to lush green spaces, he purchased 5 acres of barren rocky land and started to plant trees. Today he is a proud owner of 32 acres of forest and he lives in his own deep dark woods. In his session, he detailed the journey of his life, his thoughts and his hurdles during his long run in creating a private forest land. He also shared his views in connection with global warming and urban heat islands. His journey of life is a true inspiration to all the staffs and he took time to clear all the doubts and questions raised during the session.

Session 2

Mr. Teddy is a farmer and agriculture labourer from Attapadi, Kerala. He is a noted environmentalist who shares his concerns and represents the high range farmers' maladies through social media. He believes that people who are victimised by environment disasters and environment laws have their own narratives to express from their memories and experiences. He also shared his message about the role of agriculture in Ecosystem Restoration and also about the different perspective of human interventions in nature. Mr. Teddy as a very common man elaborated the issues faced by farmers in Attapadi and the routine conflicts between farmers and wild animals. He strongly expressed his disagreement against the claims of environmentalists that planting trees are the only solution to tackle environment degradation. He claimed that the unchecked wild animal populations as a part of the strict laws were the main cause of human animal conflicts near the forests. He also took time to address all the queries raised by the participants.

The sessions were followed by a Vote of Thanks by Mr. John Richard, HA(Env) Pathanamthitta. The program concluded at 4 PM

Glimpses of the event



As a part of the World Environment Day program and to spread the message of Restoring our Ecosystem, KSDMA decided to distribute eco-friendly reusable cloth bags to its employees. The distribution was inaugurated by Dr. Sekar L Kuriakode, Member Secretary KSDMA.



Eco-friendly bag distribution

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