

International Day for Biodiversity
By Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board
at Jobner 22nd may 2024

On May 22nd, the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board successfully organized the International Day for Biodiversity at the S.K.N. agriculture University campus. The event commenced at 9 am and continued until 2 pm, witnessing active participation from not only the students and staff of the university but also from numerous other individuals. The esteemed Vice Chancellor graced the occasion as the chief guest, inaugurating and presiding over the event alongside other distinguished guests.

The event commenced with a ceremonial lighting in front of the idol of Maa Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, followed by opening remarks and information about the event by the university's Dean & Faculty Chairman Dr. M. R. Chaudhary. Participants were recognized and awarded prizes and certificates for their valuable contributions towards spreading awareness about biodiversity.

Professor Balraj Singh conducted an insightful session, shedding light on the biodiversity of Rajasthan. Through an engaging presentation, he emphasized the significance of the semi-arid region and discussed various challenges it faces, also highlighted the geographical indicators of that region and the various possible species for the geographical indicators in future. including the impact of human activities. Prof. Singh also proposed several projects aimed at preserving biodiversity, such as establishing pollinator gardens, gene banks, and promoting proper land use practices.

Arbind Kumar Jha, (Chief Manager) Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board, captivated the audience with a discussion on the history of International Day for Biodiversity and intriguing facts about birds. Drawing attention to the migration patterns of species like the *Lesser florican*, he highlighted the adverse effects of urbanization and human activities on biodiversity, including the threat posed by invasive alien species like the water hyacinth. Nowadays it is a major problem in different regions of India. He also conducted a quiz session during an interactive quiz session, students actively participated, demonstrating their growing awareness and understanding of biodiversity.

The event concluded with an inspiring speech by R.N. Meena, (IFS) the member secretary of the State Biodiversity Board, urging everyone to actively participate in such initiatives. He emphasized the importance of individual and collective efforts in safeguarding our environment and ensuring the sustainability and equitable distribution of its resources.

Overall, the event served as a platform to educate, engage, and empower individuals to take meaningful actions for the conservation of biodiversity, thus contributing to the well-being of our planet.

