



XIIth ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016



TROPICAL INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES
www.ties.org.in

Preface

TIES is stepping to the 11th year of its existence. Eleven years of age for a voluntary organization is very crucial, because it is the period at which it decides whether it will be sustained or not, especially in environmental sector in Kerala. Incidentally, TIES paved a new path of professionalism over the years among the eco-NGO sector in Kerala and became one among such very few organizations in the country. TIES received recognitions of that level also during these years such as Best Green Institution Award, 2012, Centre of Excellence for Emerging Kerala Projects, 2012, and Kerala State Tourism Award for the most innovative project in the tourism sector, 2013. TIES also became one of the leading academic and research support organization for projects in government, corporate and voluntary sector. TIES projects are supported by state, national and international agencies too. The decennial year of TIES is marked with national and governmental grants. We extend our whole hearted thanks for the support and co-operation rendered by all director board members and our well wishers. With great pleasure we submit the 11th annual report before the board of directors, members and well wishers.

Enjoy Learning

Enjoy Learning programme was conducted at TIES from student groups from various colleges, schools and Institutes. Some of them where; Mangalam Teacher Training Institute, S.D. College Kanjirapilly, MST Public School Paippad, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Mar Baselius School and St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Manarcadu. The sessions included; introduction on nature study, different laboratory sessions, mushroom cultivation, building walk, studying the flora and fauna inside the campus and eco-friendly games.

World Environment Day – 2016

The World Environment day was celebrated at TIES by planting in the campus. TIES staff and research students participated in the activity.

Training on mushroom Farming

5 mushroom training classes were conducted for different groups of people at TIES. The training included practical and theoretical sessions.

Biodiversity Estimation and Impact Assessment programme at Plants of Apollo Tyres

TIES is the CSR consulting agency of Apollo Tyres, Thrissur and Ernakulam, Kerala. As a part of the CSR activities of Apollo Foundation, TIES has been implementing various environment conservation programmes and projects at Apollo campuses and different wards of Ernakulam and Thrissur districts. TIES is making periodical field visits to Apollo campuses for evaluating the conservation programmes.

TIES organized a two days summer camp at Apollo Tyres, Thrissur for the students of Apollo employees.

First day of the program, Greening Minds, a one day nature orientation programme for children, was organised for children of 10 to 13 years. Around 50 children (Children of Apollo employees) participated in the program. The program started with an ice-breaking session by Dr. Nelson P. Abraham and that was followed by "Total Quality Child", another session by Dr. Nelson P. Abraham. In the afternoon, Dr. Punnen Kurian led a session on "Learn from Nature", which was followed by a visit to the butterfly garden and Folk Toys making.

Second day of the program, Back to Home - One Day Sensitization Programme on Eco-Friendly Lifestyle for Women, was organised for the Wives of Apollo employees. Around 40 women participated in the program. The morning session started with Eco Friendly Lifestyle - Introductory by Dr. Punnen Kurian. The afternoon session included an introductory class on Mushroom cultivation and then a practical session where each of them prepared a Mushroom Bed for themselves. This session was led by Ms. Roshni Susan Elias.

A one day summer camp was conducted at Apollo Tyres, Kalamassery. The first session was led by Dr. Nelson P. Abraham and the session included games and analyzing videos. After that Mr. Sacaria George, Superintendent of Police led a class on duties of police and duties of public. In the afternoon session Dr. Punnen Kurian led a class on nature and it was followed by making of Folk Toys. The program ended with distribution of prizes.

An apiculture class was organized at Apollo Tyres for Apollo Tyres employees. The session was led by Mr. Jose Louise.

Projects on terrace farming have been implemented at different wards of Kodakara and Kalamassery. Preliminary workshops were conducted separately at Kalamassery and Perambra for the participants. The sessions were taken by Sri. John Sherry, Agricultural Officer, Choornikkara, Ernakulam.

KSCSTE - Industry linked Biotechnology research Scheme (IBRS): Odourless indoor composting of kitchen waste: Standardization of a biotechnological approach using bioreactor and microbial inoculums

A major project is progressing at our Institute supported by KSCSTE aims at developing a Home Composting Machine that will do odourless composting of kitchen wastes. This project aims to commercialize microbial inoculum already developed, and automated composting machine/container designed at Tropical Institute of Ecological Sciences (TIES), Kottayam for hassle-free and odour-free composting of kitchen waste inside kitchen or on balcony/terrace. The electronic parts of the machine are being developed by Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Pampady, Kottayam. The mechanical parts are designed by an Incubation centre at Department of Mechanical Engineering, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology (RIT), Pampady, Kottayam. Mass production of microbial inoculum, addition of it to the food waste and regulation of composting environment is being standardized.

SPSS Hands on Training

TIES organised a 3 day SPSS training workshop at TIES for students, researchers and employers from different fields. The class on the 1st day was taken by Dr. Joy Jacob, HOD, Department of Biostatistics, St. Thomas College, Pala. The classes on the 2nd and 3rd day were taken by Dr. Ramesh Nair, Joint Director, Statistics and Planning Department, Rubber Board, Kottayam.

Green Asia Grant - Orientation Meeting

With the support of Korea Green Foundation TIES conducted a Riparian Biodiversity Assessment of Meenachil River. 14 schools from the banks of Meenachil River participated in the survey. An Installation workshop was conducted for 3 student representatives and 2 teachers from each school, at TIES campus. The workshop had different sessions on identification of flora and fauna and survey techniques. 100 students from each school participated in the survey and they collected details on the past and existing biodiversity of Meenachil River. Also, schools conducted a river walk and campaign in allocated areas of the river. During river walk students planted bamboo saplings in the banks of the river and introduced fingerling to the river. The campaign

was conducted at different junctions on the banks of the river. Retired teachers, poets, prominent river conservationists and social workers participated in the campaign and spoke to the students and the public, spreading the news on conservation. Students performed skits, dramas, dances and songs, depicting the message of importance of river conservation. A consolidation workshop was conducted at TIES, where students shared their experiences and findings. Certificates were distributed to schools, students and teachers. Also, three best performed schools were given special prizes. Also, schools submitted individual reports on their survey findings.

CNPI (College-NGO Partnership Initiative)

College - NGO Partnership Initiative (CNPI) is a mutually benefitting research-cum-extension project of TIES, involving students and faculty of affiliated colleges in India. CNPI program was inaugurated at Sree Sankara Vidyapeetam in July. The programme was inaugurated by the Panchayat President and was attended by the whole college community. The training session was led by Dr. Punnen Kurian. In November, CNPI was inaugurated at St. Dominic's College, Kanjirappilly. The principal inaugurated the programme and Dr. Punnen Kurian led the training session.

Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA - Jalanidhi) at Meenadom Grama Panchyath, Kottayam district

Jalanidhi, Kerala Rural water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA) is a World Bank supported project. TIES is the supporting agency for Jalanidhi at Meenadom Grama Panchayath. There are 15 drinking water projects and 5 ground water recharging projects, that are proposed for the Meenadom Panchayath, among which 9 drinking water projects are new projects and 6 are rehabilitation projects of either KWA or Panchayath. The work is progressing and the project programmes include baseline data preparation, identification of water scarcity areas and needy community through a participatory appraisal activity, formulation of Beneficiary groups, Federation of Beneficiary groups and several sub committees. The projects are implemented with 75% aid from Jalanidhi, 15% by the Panchayath and 10% as beneficiary contribution. The day to day work is monitored by a Project commissioner appointed by Jalanidhi.

In June, 2015 TIES was selected as the Best Performing SO among all SO's in the 2nd phase, 2nd batch Jalanidhi Projects in Kerala (68 Panchayaths). The special award was presented by Sri. Oommen Chandy and was received by Dr. Punnen Kurian. Meenadom panchayath also presented a memento to TIES.

Exhibition

TIES participated in RIT Expo 2016 from February 10-13, 2016 and in Kottayam Exhibition from February 18-20.

World House Sparrow Day

World House Sparrow Day celebration was organized by TIES in coordination with Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) at Marine Drive, Kochi. Name boards with scientific name, common name and English name was placed on the trees at Marine Drive. Sparrow nests were placed on the trees and buildings and also the nests were distributed to the shop owners. A meeting in the public was also conducted to create awareness among the public on the need to conserve sparrows. The meeting was inaugurated by Sri. R. Lalu (Secretary, GCDA). Sri. James (Secretary, Shop Owners Association), Dr. Punnen Kurian (Secretary, TIES) and Project Officers of TIES spoke on the occasion.

Junior Naturalist Course

1st day of Junior Naturalist course started with an introduction class by Dr. Punnen Kurian and that was followed by a section on Tips for Nature Studies and Method of Field Note Writing led by Mr. P. Manoj. The 2nd and 3rd day classes were led by Mr. Jessan T. Das on birds and a field visit to Naalumanikattu. The 4th day session was led by Dr. Abraham Samuel K. on dragonflies and damselflies and followed with a field visit to the neighbourhood. The 5th day session was led by Mr. P. Manoj on plants. The 6th day morning session was on snakes by Mr. P. Manoj and the afternoon session followed with a field visit to a river. A one day camp was organised at Kuttikanam for the participants. A final evaluation was conducted to analyze their field skills. On 18th July, a consolidation ceremony was conducted at TIES. The program was inaugurated by Sri. U.V. Jose, Hon. District Collector Kottayam. 19 students were awarded with certificates and identity cards in the function.

Amphibian Survey

A study titled, "Assessing the distribution and conservation status of Variable Bush Frog (*Raorchestes chalazodes* Gunther, 1876) in the Konni Bio-reserve – Shenduruni Wildlife Sanctuary (Konni Forest Division, Achankovil Forest Division, Thenmala Forest Division and Shenduruni Wildlife Division) of Western Ghats, India" was conducted with the support of Mohammed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund to identify the population status and threats of the species. The forest survey was conducted on 7th and 8th May, 2015 at Mundomuzhi forest station of Konni forest division. The 2nd survey was conducted from 26-28 May, 2015 from the Pandimotta shelter to Anachantha. From 18-20 June, 2015 the survey was conducted at Shenduruni Wildlife Sanctuary of Western Ghats. From 21st to 23rd July, 2015 survey was conducted at Achankovil Reserve Forest.

Prakruthiye Varaykkam - 21 May

A painting competition was conducted at TIES for students on the theme of nature. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Artist Sri. Benny T. Mathew.

Suchitwa Kottayam

On 18th May, 2015, TIES was selected as the technical supporting agency of Suchitwa Kottayam, a district administrative project.

Suchithwa Kottayam was inaugurated in a simple but elegant function on 4th June 2015. The scheme was jointly inaugurated through lamp lighting by prominent people from cultural, literary and social background and various people representatives.

On 19th June Sri. U.V. Jose, Kottayam District Collector visited TIES and a meeting on Suchitwa Kottayam project was conducted.

On 28th November, 2015, Suchithwamythri Stall was installed for the exchange of plastic carry bags with cloth bags from Sabarimala Pilgrims and it was inaugurated by Mr. Joshy Philip, President, District Panchayath, Kottayam. Ms. Mary Jacob, Vice President, District Panchyath Kottayam presided and District Collector Mr. U.V. Jose, delivered key note address. Mr. Shino P.S., ADC, Mr.M.T.Salim, Station Manger, Kottayam railway Station and Dr.Punnen Kurian, Director, TIES, spoke on the occasion. The stall was run by TIES for District adminsitration and Suchithwamission.

On 2nd December an awareness campaign among Sabarimala pilgrims was conducted by school students in connection with the exchange of plastic carry bags with cloth bags from Sabarimala Pilgrims by District Administration and Suchitwa Mission in association with Tropical Institute of Ecological Sciences.

Naalumanikattu

TIES project Naalumanikkatts' float won the 2nd prize in the state level Onam Pageantry held in connection with Onam Celebration at Thiruvananthapuram

PFM – Participatory Forest Management

TIES was selected as the consultant of PFM related training. As part of this a one day interactive meeting was held for PFM coordinators at TIES campus, Velloor, Kottayam on 28th October 2015. The meeting was conducted to gather the views and suggestions of the well experienced PFM coordinators in the state. Dr. Shaju Thomas, Head, Division of Environmental Education and Conservation, TIES and the Principal Investigator of the project welcomed the gathering. He briefly explained the objectives of the project and day's deliberations to be followed. Then the programme was inaugurated by Mr. K. Premkumar, Asst. Conservator and state Coordinator, PFM. Dr. Punnen Kurian, Secretary, TIES and Co-investigator to the project presented a background paper on PFM activities in Kerala. Participants presented their views and suggestions which followed by a question answer session for clarifications.

An Expert committee meeting was conducted at TIES on 27th November, 2015. The meeting was attended by: K. J. Varughese IFS (APCCF), Justin Mohan (Director, Department of Soil Survey and Conservation), O.P. Kaler (APCCF), Sanjayan Kumar(Director, Sports & YP), Bennichan Thomas (MD KFDC), T Pradeep Kumar (DFO, Konni), Simon Francis K (Training Officer PTR), James

Zacharias (DFO, rtd), Pramod G Krishnan (CCF, Wild Life, Palakkad), T Suresh Babu (CF, Kottayam), Raju Francis (Liaison Officer, Office of the AG), M S Jayaraman (DFO, Kottayam) and Saby Varghese (Principal, KFS, Arippa).

Konni Dragonfly Survey

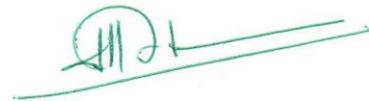
A survey to identify various species of dragonflies was conducted from 11th to 13th December, 2015 at Konni Forest Division in collaboration with the Forest Department. The survey had 25 participants and the survey identified 50 different species of dragonflies.

URJA KIRAN - Energy Awareness Campaign

With the support of Energy Management Centre (EMC) TIES conducted a one day seminar for kudumbasree representatives of different wards of Pampady Grama Panchayat. The seminar was inaugurated by Sri. V. T. Philipose (Pampady Panchayat President) and was attended by Sri. Jino Vellakkottu (Pampady Panchayat Member) and Dr. Punnen Kurian (Secretary, TIES). The session was led by Dr. Sankararaman (Associate Professor & Research guide, Department of Physics, Nirmala College).



Dr. Abraham Samuel
President



Dr. Punnen Kurian
Secretary

