

CSIR-NEERI celebrates World Environment Day

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2024 in the NEERI Auditorium. Dr. Prashant Bokare, Vice-Chancellor, Gondwana University, was the Chief Guest at this event. Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI; Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEERI; Dr. M.P. Patil, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEERI; Dr. Swapnil Dantulwar, Member of the Management Council of Gondwana University; Dr. Prashant Thakare, Assistant Professor, PGT Chemistry Department, Gondwana University; Dr. Nandkishor Meshram, Assistant Professor at Gondwana University, Dr. Lal Singh, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI; and Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Bokare pointed out that about forty-five percent of the land in India is unsuitable for cultivation, which requires a comprehensive approach involving policy interventions and effective resource management. He expressed concern over the recurring problem of waste management faced by many developing countries, including India. Illustrating the principles of chaos theory, Dr. Bokare said that the construction of infrastructure like concrete roads in one city can have extensive and interconnected impacts on another city, as impervious surfaces do not allow water to penetrate into the ground and instead flow into drainage systems, rivers, and streams. He emphasized the need to reduce waste and adopt eco-friendly practices.

Dr. Patil briefed the audience about CSIR-NEERI's contributions to land reclamation through remediation. He pointed out that a detailed assessment of most of the hazardous waste-contaminated sites has not yet been done; only an inventory has been prepared by the regulatory authorities. He informed that there are more than 3,000 municipal solid waste dumping sites in the country that need scientific disposal. He also discussed various projects implemented at different industries for the remediation of hazardous waste-contaminated sites.

Dr. Lal Singh described the projects implemented for ecological restoration of wasteland, including the current status of degraded and wasteland in India. He narrated the success story of

implementing eco-rejuvenation technology at the fly ash dump sites of Suradevi, Koradi, and Khaparkheda using selected bamboo species.

In his welcome address, Dr. Vaidya said that restoring our natural resources is critical for a sustainable future. It requires a comprehensive approach involving conservation, sustainable management and policy enforcement, he added. He mentioned that land is a major natural resource which needs to be restored, as contamination and degradation of land have become concerns.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged between CSIR-NEERI and Gondwana University for joint academic and research projects on this occasion.

Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar briefed about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between CSIR-NEERI and Gondwana University. Dr. Debishree Khan, Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings and Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI delivering the welcome address



Dr M P Patil briefing about CSIR-NEERI's contributions to land reclamation through remediation



Dr. Lal Singh described the projects implemented for ecological restoration of wasteland



Dr. Prashant Bokare, Vice-Chancellor, Gondwana University addressing the audience



Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar briefed about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between CSIR-NEERI and Gondwana University



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Dr. Debishree Khan, Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings