

TRAINING ON BASICS OF PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE

ORGANISED BY BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG

FROM 7th TO 9th NOVEMBER, 2016



REPORT ON THE TRAINING ON BASICS OF PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE ORGANISED BY BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG FROM 7TH TO 9TH NOVEMBER, 2016

The 'Training on basics of Plant Identification and Nomenclature' was conducted by Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Eastern Regional Centre (ERC), Shillong from 7th to 9th November, 2016.

The resource persons for the training were Drs. V. Sampath Kumar, Scientist 'D', Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah, Subir Bandyopadhyay Scientist 'B', Hqrs., BSI, Howrah, Avishek Bhattacharjee, Scientist 'B', CNH, Gopal Krishna, Bot. Asstt., CNH and Sangita Das Chowdhury, AJCBPDF, Hqrs., BSI.

There were 35 participants from different states of Northeast India such as Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The participants were lecturers, research scholars and M.Sc. students.

The inaugural session started at 10.30 AM. Mr. C.P. Marak, PCCF, Shillong, Meghalaya was the chief guest. He appreciated BSI for conducting such kind of capacity building training in plant taxonomy. Dr. A.A. Mao, Scientist 'F' & HoO, ERC, BSI, Shillong said that many candidates were interested in attending the training programme but all of them could not be given chance due to limitation of sitting capacity in the conference hall of ERC, Shillong.

The news of the inaugural function of the training programme was published in 'The Meghalaya Guardian' and the 'Shillong Times' on 8th November 2016.

All the participants were provided with course material containing (i) History of the botanical Code, (ii) Selected information on International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (ICN), (iii) Major changes in the Melbourne Code, (iv) Symbols and abbreviations, (v) Definitions of terms used in the Code, (v) Important websites and (vi) Literature suggested for further reading.

On the first day of the training, the participants learnt 'How to identify plants using keys', and 'Photo plate making'. Thereafter the lectures were given on 'History of the Code of Botanical Nomenclature' and 'Elementary knowledge of ICBN/ICN, Preamble and Principles'.

On the second day, the participants learnt about 'Different kinds of names', 'Author citations', 'Symbols and Abbreviations', 'Typification of Plant Names', 'Categories and Hierarchy', 'How to describe a new taxon', 'Principle of Priority and its limitation' and 'Effective and Valid Publication'.

On the concluding day, lecture was given on 'Flora, Revision and Monograph' and 'Acronyms of herbaria'. Thereafter the participants were shown how to search, botanical databases such as IPNI, The Plant List and Tropicos; abbreviations of authors of plant names; BPH-2 and Taxonomic Literature.

The participants were quite interactive during the presentations. A film on 'Collection and processing of plant specimens' and 'The technique of making herbarium sheets' was also shown. Moreover, nomenclature and plant identification exercise was conducted for the participants, and those who stood first, second and third, were given prizes.

During the valedictory function, Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, BSI, emphasized the significance of conducting such kind of training programme and asked the participants to express their views on it. Each and every participant individually appreciated the training programme and expressed their opinion. Many of them said that increasing the duration of the programme and arranging of field trips might be more beneficial. They also suggested that such kind of training programme should be conducted more frequently.

The feedbacks were received from the participants in a prescribed format.

The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. S.K. Singh, Scientist 'D', ERC, BSI, Shillong.



Inaugural function



Lighting of the lamp during inaugural function



Resource persons delivering lectures



Resource person taking practical class



Participants listening lecture



Participants giving examination



Valedictory function



Group photograph during the training programme