

Brief report on ‘TRAINING ON BASICS OF PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE’ organized by Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong from 30th October to 03rd November 2017

A five day training program on **basics of plant identification and nomenclature** was organised at Botanical survey of India, Eastern regional Centre, Shillong with the aim to spread knowledge and awareness in the field of plant taxonomy. A total of 29 participants from various institutes like North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; BRDC, Shillong; Mizoram University, Guwahati University, NERIST, Itanagar; GBPNHESD, Itanagar; NERIE NCRT, Barapani, FEED, Manipur; BNMU; Bihar along with our own students participated in this program. The training program started with the registration of participants on Monday, 30th October, 2017. The brief



inauguration program was graced by presence of Dr. A. K. Mishra, Head, NBPGR, Barapani as Chief Guest. Dr. A.A. Mao delivered the welcome speech emphasizing on the importance of plant taxonomy research, expertise available with BSI and the significance of conducting this workshop cum hands on training on Plant taxonomy and Nomenclature. Students and resource persons

introduction was followed by address of Chief Guest who further highlighted importance of knowledge in plant taxonomy in scientific research.

Course co-coordinator Dr. S. K. Singh gave a brief outline of training program which was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Deepu Vijayan. First technical session of the program was started with elaborate and detailed presentation and discussion on plant nomenclature, typification, symbols and abbreviations by Dr. S. K. Singh. The concept of



nomenclature and typification was explained in this session with suitable examples of nomenclatural situations arising while naming the plants. Afternoon session started with presentation by Dr. M. Murugesan on Classification, identification and preparation of keys. Along with basics of classification types, Bentham and Hookers classification and hands on training on key preparation was given by giving them plant samples and making them to prepare their own keys without any errors. The last session of the day saw presentation on Herbarium techniques by Dr. Chaya Deori who explained basics of plant sample collection, preservation methods and Preparation of good herbarium sheets.

Day two of the training program Tuesday 31st October, started with presentation on types of floristic studies by Dr. M. Murugesan which was

followed by a practical session on dissection of plants and observation of plant characters. Dr. M. Murugesan explained elaborately on floral characters to be observed in plants and glossary of terms to describe plant characters by showing respective illustration. Session on dissection of plants was carried forward by Dr. Chaya Deori to



demonstrate basics and techniques of good photo plate preparation for publication using various photo editing software's. This was followed by hands on demonstration by Dr. Chaya Deori on plant pressing, mounting and herbarium labeling along with methods of plant pressing for fleshy and succulent plants, poisoning, fumigation, killing insect pest by deep freezing.



On Wednesday 01 November 2017 day started with introduction to IUCN red List Categories and Criteria by Dr. M. Murugesan. This was followed by a lively presentation by Dr. N. Odyuo on Field exploration and collection of plants. With his enormous field expertise Dr. Odyuo guided students through challenges in field, equipment's and preparations required for field exploration, ideal samples (with characters required) for different groups of plants, importance of maintaining of field books with properly labeled samples and collection of live plants and planting in garden. The lecture

session was continued by Dr. Odyuo with a field visit to experimental botanical garden at Barapani for live demonstration of field skills and introduction to various groups of plants.

Day four, Thursday 02nd November 2017 started with lecture by Dr. Deepu Vijayan on Modern trends on plant taxonomy, students took much interest in this with frequent interaction in between lecture on various points illustrated by Dr. Vijayan. This session was followed by introduction to calibration of microscope and live demonstration of microscope calibration, camera lucida illustration, taking measurement through microscope, scale. Session was guided by Dr. S. K. Singh and assisted by Dr. A.



Prabhugaonkar and Ms. I. Chanu. Session was continued throughout the remainder of the day with students practicing their hands on tracing the illustrations, Inking with rotting pen, free hand drawing of large plant parts and scale on illustrated plates.

The fifth i.e. last day of training program Friday 3rd November 2017 started with a review of the



training program by Dr. A. A. Mao which was followed by an introduction to *Ex Situ* conservation of RET and economically important plants. After the lecture students were requested to present their views and any suggestions on workshop. Students from various field of science termed the training very important and helpful for carrying out their respective research work. Students also requested to organize such program frequently so they can refer their colleagues and friends. Students also requested for advanced training in plant taxonomy as they observed that BSI has the expertise to provide the same. Few of the students also requested to organize

such programs in other plant groups such as Bryophytes, pteridophytes and fungi especially mushroom.



At the end of program students were presented with Certificates and Dr. A.A. Mao again emphasised on the importance of taxonomy in his valedictory address and told the participants that there is no short cut to learn taxonomy but they should continually practice what they learned from the training on their research. Then they will enjoy and learn the trick of the subject matter.

Dr. A.A. Mao
Scientist 'F' and Head of Office