

Pollinator Conservation and Education Training Workshop

Pollinator Conservation and Education Training Workshop
3-5 June 2013
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
Host / Collaborator: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore / The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, USA
Organisers: IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG), Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD)
Sponsors: Chester Zoo, UK; Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA and Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), USA



Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Chester Zoo and CBSG sponsored for a three-day training workshop to promote pollinator conservation in India from 3-5 June 2013. This programme is organized by IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, Zoo Outreach Organisation in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, USA.

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of nearly 75 percent of the world's flowering plants and is fundamental to agriculture and natural ecosystems. More than two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollination, and the global economic value of insect-pollinated crops is estimated to be more than US \$200 billion annually. A growing body of evidence has demonstrated that pollinators are in serious decline, due to habitat loss, modification, and/or fragmentation, excessive pesticide use, diseases, and introduction of alien species. The decline in pollinators must be reversed now, as even current loss suggests an impending crisis. In the South Asian context, very little is known about the status of pollinators in the wild and their populations, pollinator interactions with other elements of crop and crop associated biodiversity, the ecology of pollinators, or the ultimate consequences of their decline. There is also a lack of information and knowledge on the enabling environment that contributes to the decline of pollinator numbers.

A realistic way to ensure pollinator conservation is to promote and enhance its value to society. Apart from understanding the need of the multiple goods and services provided by pollinators, it is necessary to promote conservation of pollinators by creating awareness among farmers, students, policy makers and the general public, i.e. civil society at all levels. Considering the importance of

Pollinators and their unfortunate decline throughout the world it is crucial that the decline is slowed down. One of the ways is to increase capacity of entomologists and field biologists to recognize the forces that are depleting pollinators and address them with appropriate means. With this in mind a three-day training programme was planned for the pollinator researchers.

The main objectives of the workshop are: to convey practical field techniques for use for pollinator studies; to highlight what has become a crisis of pollinators and the role of invertebrate as pollinators; to teach current best practice in survey, identification, land use management etc. and to reinforce their commitment; to imbibe a short training in education of laypersons about the need to conserve invertebrate pollinators and; to create a network of committed pollinator conservation researchers in India for future conservation action.

Some of the major topics covered in the workshop are: Global trends of pollinator decline and an introduction Pollinator Conservation Program. National Pollinator trend and status; Impact of pesticides on pollinators; Habitat evaluation – Field observation and land-use discussion; Rapid field habitat assessment and pollinator monitoring techniques; Applied Habitat Restoration for Pollinators; Role of solitary bees, bumble bees and carpenter bees; Observation of insect pollinators in selected; Managing Stem and Wood Nesting Bees for Crop Pollination; Bee-Friendly Farming Practices; Status of Indian Invertebrate Pollinators; Species assessment process; IUCN Red List Criteria; introduction to SIS and mapping; Pollinator conservation education – activities. Planning future pollinator activities and commitment. The proceedings of the workshop and the report will be made available at zoo site. For any other details write to <daniel@zooreach.org>

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www.zooreach.org