



# BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP

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On October 24, 2024, the Sree Narayana Puram Panchayat Biodiversity Management Committee, in collaboration with the CEtC Hornbill Foundation, successfully conducted the second phase of a workshop for volunteers on preparing a Strategy Action Plan. This event marked another milestone in strengthening community-based biodiversity conservation efforts, where survey for the LBSAP was finalised and volunteers were trained.

### **Objective of the Workshop:**

The primary objective of the training session was to equip volunteers with the knowledge and skills necessary to collect accurate and comprehensive data for the preparation of the Strategy Action Plan. This plan aims to support effective biodiversity management and conservation initiatives within the panchayat.



### **Inaugural Session:**

The workshop began with an inaugural ceremony presided over by the Panchayat President, M.S. Mohanan. In his address, the President highlighted the critical role of biodiversity conservation and applauded the efforts of the volunteers and biodiversity conservation workers. His encouragement underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in preserving local biodiversity and fostering sustainable practices.

### **Technical Session:**

The technical session was led by Dr. Amitha Bachan, assistant professor, department of botany, MES Asmabi college. Dr. Bachan provided an in-depth training program, focusing on equipping volunteers with practical skills for conducting field surveys and collecting relevant data. Key highlights of the session included:

#### 1. Data Collection Techniques:

- Importance of accurate data collection.
- Methods for identifying and cataloging biodiversity components.

#### 2. Survey Methods:

- Tools and techniques for effective fieldwork.
- Strategies for mapping biodiversity hotspots within the panchayat.

#### 3. Data Sheet Management:

- Step-by-step guidance on filling out data sheets.
- Standardized protocols to ensure consistency and reliability in data reporting.

Dr. Bachan's interactive approach ensured active participation from the volunteers, fostering a hands-on learning environment. Participants gained insights into addressing potential challenges during data collection and were encouraged to adopt a meticulous and systematic approach to their work.

### **Participant Engagement:**

The session saw enthusiastic participation from a diverse group of volunteers, including students, local community members, and conservation practitioners covering more than 118 people. A participatory planning was done dividing the targeted Panchyath into 21 grids and each team has assigned to do one transect in each grid. The student volunteers were given technical training for identification of biodiversity, agrobiodiversity, climate change indicators and environmental factors. Each technical team assigned to assist the community in survey at least in four grids. Their engagement reflected a shared commitment to the mission of biodiversity conservation. Feedback from the participants highlighted the clarity and relevance of the training.

### **Conclusion:**

The second phase of the workshop was a resounding success, laying a strong foundation for the preparation of a comprehensive Strategy Action Plan. The collaborative efforts of the Sree Narayanapuram Panchayat BMC and the CEtC Hornbill Foundation have significantly enhanced local capacity for biodiversity management. The technical expertise provided during the session will undoubtedly contribute to achieving long-term conservation goals.