

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**

**A PROFILE OF NGC - SPECIAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2005-2006**

Department of Environment
Panagal Building, Saidapet
Chennai-15

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2005-2006

In addition to the following regular activities being carried out by the NGC - Eco-clubs, the following special activities are organised so far, by the Department of Environment during the year 2005-2006.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- 1) School Campus Cleaning
- 2) Tree Planting
- 3) Environmental Awareness Rallies
- 4) World Environment Day Celebration
- 5) Ozone Day Celebration
- 6) World Water Day Celebration
- 7) World Wet Land Day Celebration
- 8) Rain Water Harvesting
- 9) Vermi Composting
- 10) Enviro Expo
- 11) Quiz Programme
- 12) Drawing Competition
- 13) Elocution Competition
- 14) Anti Plastic Campaign
- 15) Cultural Programmes on Environmental Awareness
- 16) Solid Waste Management
- 17) Nature Camp
- 18) Herbal Gardening

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY RALLY-2005

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th, 2005 in a grand manner. An awareness rally was conducted from the Panagal Building to the Children's Park, Guindy involving 300 NGC students, belonging to the various schools from the city.

TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME

Tree planting programme was also conducted by the Department of Environment, at the "Children's Park", Guindy on 5th June 2005 on the eve of World Environment Day. Eco-club student members participated with great enthusiasm.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND AWARD DISTRIBUTION

The school children performed excellent cultural programme on this year's World Environment Day Theme "**GREEN CITIES ! - PLAN FOR THE PLANETS**" at the TNPCB Pavilion. On the eve of the World Environment Day celebrations, Honourable Minister for Law and Information Technology Dr T.Jayakumar and Honourable Minister for Forest and Environment Thiru R.Vaithilingam were participated and distributed the State Environmental Awards to the experts/environmentalists in a function organised by the Department of Environment on 8th June 2005.

HAMS RADIO PROGRAMME

To spread the messages on Environment among the school children, an innovative special programme through “HAMS RADIO” was conducted by the Department of Environment, in association with the District Eco-club co-ordinator viz., M/s. Federation of Science Club of Tamil Nadu, The Director of Environment Dr S. Balaji I.F.S., interact with school children assembled in 5 different centres in the city through “HAMS RADIO” about 50 school children in each centre were participated in the programme and discussed various environmental concerns with the Director of Environment on that day.

CELEBRATION OF WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

A per UN General Assembly Resolution in 1994, 17th June is celebrated as World Day to combat desertification and drought to raise awareness among the various sections of the society. It is a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification can be effectively tackled that situations are possible through community participation and co-operation at all level. The proposed theme on this year celebration of 17th June is women and desertification as a means to recognise of support the unique role played by women in regions affected by drought and desertification.

To mark this occasion, it is decided to conduct awareness programmes on “**Combat Desertification**” in Ramanathapuram District, Since Ramanathapuram District is noted for a vast dry lands having many remote villages.

Debate, Cultural programmes were organised for all the eco-club school students at Ramanathapuram on 27.06.2005. The programmes were held at Schwartz Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Ramanathapuram

AWARENESS ACTIVITY DURING KODAIKANAL FLOWER SHOW

The best season to view the kodaikanal starts from the month of April and end of July. During this period different types of people from different part of the country as well as people from different parts of world visit kodaikanal.

They are using plastic cups, bottles, sheets and other utensils which are against the eco-friendly. The people are being lack of awareness on the environment clean and green. There are about 7000 tourists visitors per day during season and about 3000 per day during off-season.

To create awareness on environment through exhibition at Kodaikanal during the summer festival, to provide more information about environment concerns and to conduct competitions insisting the importance of Environmental awareness, the following activities are carried out through M/s. Ideal Trust, Theni District during the flower show between 22.05.2005 and 31.05.2005 and awareness created to 1,50,000/- visitors who have witnessed the flower show.

Activities conducted:

- Exhibition stall at Kodaikanal during the flower show
- Distributing awareness materials to the visitors
- Quiz, and other informative competitions to the visitors
- Displaying posters and sticks on environmental awareness
- Distributing paper carry bags and jute bags instead of polythene and plastic materials
- Erection of welcome arch at the entrance of kodaikanal indicated the environment conservation

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LAND RESOURCES CONSERVATION WEEK (NLRCW)

National Land Resources Conservation Week (NLRCW) was celebrated between November 14 and November 19 in an enthusiastic manner in Tamil Nadu. Nearly, all the eco-clubs participated in the celebrations organised by the Department of Environment. Debate, Drawing, Painting and Quiz competitions for the school children, in order to spread awareness on Scientific Management of Natural Resources as part of Celebration of National Land Resources Conservation Week 2005 were conducted as follows:

Debate	-	9 th to 12 th std students
Drawing	-	6 th to 8 th std students
Painting	-	3 rd to 5 th std students
Quiz	-	8, 9, 11 th std students

The competitions were held on the topic **“Our Land - Our Future”**.

The competitions were held district wise, in all 30 districts of Tamil Nadu. The 30 district of Tamil Nadu were divided into 5 regions and the winners in the district competitions participated in the Regional competitions at 5 Regional centers in the 4 disciplines stated above. The final competitions was held at Thanjavur on 19.11.2005, along with the Enviro Expo 2005.

The Honourable Minister for Forest and Environment, Thiru R. Vaithilingam participated in the valedictory function and gave away prizes to the winners. Caps and certificates were issued to all participants in the Regional and State Level competitions. The T-shirts were issued to all the participants in the State Level competitions.

ENVIRO EXPO 2005

Department of Environment is conducting Enviro Expo for the past 4 years. The 1st and 2nd Expo was conducted in Chennai. The 3rd Expo was organised at Erode the 4th Expo was conducted at Thanjavur.

The Responsibility of conducting the Expo 2005 on behalf the Department of Environment was given to local Eco-club coordinating NGO, Centre for Ecology and Research. It was conducted on 19.11.2005 at Thanjavur. 72 schools from 28 districts participated in the expo. The Expo was conducted in Raja's Higher Secondary School in Palace Complex of Thanjavur.

The District Collector, Thanjavur and the Chief Educational Officer, Thanjavur was appraised of Expo. The District Collector gave a press release informing all the school in the District to participate and witness the expo and also to participate in the District Level competition conducted in connection with National Land Resources Conservation Week at Thanjavur on 12.11.2005. The Chief Educational Officer has convened a committee for conducting the Expo in a grand manner. The committee consist of the following members.

1. Head Master, Raja's Higher Secondary School, Thanjavur
2. Head Master, Oriental High Secondary School, Thanjavur
3. Head Master, Govt. Girls High School, Kumbakonam
4. Mr. Ram Manohar NGC Co-ordinator, Thanjavur
5. Dr. V. Palaniappan, Eco-club Co-ordinator, Thanjavur District

Students from Thanjavur Town and the near by area thronged the school. Nearly 10,000 students would have visited the Expo and carried the message on Environment Protection, Sustainable agriculture, Alternate source of energy, Rain water harvesting, Solid waste management etc. All the students and teachers who have participated in the Enviro Expo have been provided with T-shirts and caps especially prepared by the department of Environment.

The Honourable Minister for Forest and Environment, Thiru R. Vaithilingam participated in the valedictory function and gave away prizes to the winners for the best exhibits.

CELEBRATION OF OZONE DAY

On the Occasion of Ozone Day on September 16th, all the 30 districts Eco-club co-ordinators and NGC co-ordinators have been requested to celebrate Ozone Day by emphasising the need for preserving Ozone layer, by conducting Quiz Programmes, Human Chains, Rallies, Seminars, Workshops, Drawing competitions, Debates etc. Accordingly, the day was celebrated in the schools having eco-clubs and NGC programmes, as a part of Environmental activities during September 2005.

Further, the Department of Environment has conducted three programmes as follows:-

1. Human Chain programme was conducted on 16th September 2005 starting from Sri R.K.M Saradha Model Higher Secondary School, T.Nagar, Chennai, in which around 300 boys and girls belonging to 8 schools participated.
2. Human Chain programmes, starting from Valluvar Gurukulam, GST Road, Tambaram of Kancheepuram District was conducted on the Ozone Day wherein around 300 students belonging to 7 schools participated
3. A workshop on the topic "**Damages to Ozone Layer and its prevention**" was conducted through M/s. Sugam Service Institution, on 16th September 2005 at Mandapam of Ramanathapuram District 75 students belonging to 25 schools attended the workshop. Debate on the above subject was also conducted on the same day, among students and prizes were distributed to the best students

BHOGI FESTIVAL - ANTI BURNING AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Bhogi festival is celebrated with traditional fervour throughout the State on the day prior to Pongal. It is a festival to get rid of old and useless articles from home and be ready to welcome joyous Pongal. On that day, some people burn tyres, plastics and unwanted household articles because of which the entire city gets covered with a black smoke blanket. This results in the release of carbon di-oxide and other obnoxious gases into the atmosphere, exposure to which results in irritation of eye, nose, throat, skin and respiratory diseases besides many other health hazards. Therefore, people are requested to avoid burning of the waste materials such as rubber tyres, plastics, polythene, etc on the Bhogi day.

The Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu has conducted various programmes to bring home the ill effects of burning wastes such as tyres on the Bhogi day. It has conducted 3-day Anti Burning awareness campaign starting from 10.01.2006. Pre-recorded messages on the theme has been broadcasted over box speakers. Handbills have been distributed among people. In this year functions, The Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has also participated and distribute the handbills to the public.

Further all the eco-clubs in the State have carried out awareness programmes such as Rallies, Seminars, Cultural programmes, Street Plays etc., among students and also for public on the eve of Bhogi festival.

In Chennai, over 200 school eco-clubs have conducted rallies in and around their school streets and campaigned against the burning of tyres, tubes, plastics etc.,

With the help of Chief Educational Officers, Department of School Education, all the students were requested by their school head masters on the evils of smoke due to burning plastics, tyres, tubes etc., in their morning prayers

ORIENTATION TRAINING ON MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

As most of the members of the NGC Eco-clubs hailed from poor families in the rural areas, it is decided to train up students and also the SHG members in the villages to undertake this venture as income generating programme. This programme was conducted through the C.S.M.A. Higher Secondary School, M.M.Kovilur, Dindigul District. Mr. K. Karupuraj, Junior Research Fellow, Sri A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre, Taramani, Chennai has trained the participants about the importance of mushroom cultivation, preparation and harvesting techniques. The programme was conducted on 09.01.2006.