

Consultative workshop on “Human Wildlife Conflicts in the Eastern and Northern Forest Circles of Kerala: Issues and Possible Solutions” during 15/03/2016 to 16/03/2016 at the College of Forestry.

A Consultative Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflicts in the Eastern and Northern Forest Circles of Kerala: Issues and Possible Solutions was organized from 15/03/2016 to 16/03/2016 at the College of Forestry. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri. Pramod G Krishnan IFS, CCF (Wildlife), Palakkad. Welcoming the delegates, Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Dean, College of Forestry highlighted our culture of peaceful co-existence and live-and-let live policy. The need of the hour is a paradigm shift in our mindset towards the other living beings. Delivering the presidential address, Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director of Research, KAU appreciated the effort taken by Forestry College to discuss an issue of topical relevance by involving all the connected stakeholders. Man as a species is now trying in vain to over dominate the other species. He expressed the hope that the workshop will come up with viable suggestions that will ease the conflicts.



Inaugural address by Sri. Pramod G Krishnan IFS

Sri. Pramod said that instead of viewing this issue as a conflict, human and wildlife conflicts must be approached as negative interactions. Human Wildlife conflict is a global issue. The conflicts have not increased in India, but the reporting level has changed. Rapid urbanization has changed our perceptions about co-existence and we now view the other species as

intruders. He also highlighted the need for the development of pre and post conflict strategies to mitigate the conflicts.



Interactive talks by various wildlife experts Farmer oriented Interactive sessions

The technical sessions in the opening day was handled by Dr. P. S. Easa, former Director of KFRI and an expert in wildlife, Sri. M. I. Varghese, IFS (Retd.), an expert in wildlife laws, Dr. P.O. Nameer, Head, Dept. of Wildlife Sciences, COF, Dr. Mani Chellappan, Agricultural Ornithologist of KAU, Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Professor and Head of Gender Studies of KAU and Dr. A. V. Santhoskumar, Associate Professor, COF, KAU. Dr. S. Gopakumar, Organising Secretary of the workshop delivered the vote of thanks.

About 35 farmers representing Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad along with forest officers and scientists from KVKs of the erstwhile Malabar region of Kerala participated in the two day workshop. The workshop's conclusions include the establishment of "Vigilant groups" in all affected areas involving the public, officers and members of local self-government and NGOs. Public and local political leaders must be sensitized about the wildlife behavior, wildlife laws and must be made willing partners to mitigate the interactions. Compensations for crop loss must be hiked to 100% and funds for these must be generated by setting up a corpus fund. ICT must be used to mitigate the conflicts. Serious efforts must be taken to arrest the quality deterioration of the wildlife habitats which was cited as one primary reason which is forcing the migration of wild animals to farmlands.
