

# WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Department of Geography & Geoinformatics  
Bangalore University, Bengaluru

## 1. Educational Project

Educational Project was organized by Dr. Ashok D Hanjagi as part of the **WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATIONS** in Department of Geography & Geoinformatics, Bangalore University, Bengaluru, India. Because of the geographical and agricultural significance Kaluru, Mutlu, Hammiyala, and Achinadu Villages in Kodagu district of Karnataka state were selected for the educational project and soil characteristics of these areas were studied.

### Educational Project : Kaluru, Mutlu, Hammiyala, and Achinadu Villages in Kodagu district, Karnataka

The students, Research scholars from the Geography and Geo-informatics Department led by Dr. Ashok D Hanjagi, visited flood and landslide affected villages such as Kaluru, Mutlu, Hammiyala, and Achinadu villages in Kodagu district of Karnataka state. Kaluru, Mutlu, Hammiyala, and Achinadu are the mountainous villages located between 12° 32' N latitude and 75° 87' E longitude, which lie ecologically sensitive zone in the eastern slope of Western Ghats. As it is located on the eastern slopes of Western Ghats range the whole area covered by beautiful mountain ranges, the green trap of forest, the misty climate in monsoon and winter season. The massive loss of biodiversity occurred in these areas due to the landslide. The local vegetation is damaged and animals are severely affected. The soil in agricultural lands has been completely eroded, and this is expected to affect the livelihoods of people for many years to come, especially since these are ecologically sensitive zones. The soil was already moist and the spell of heavy rainfall coupled with the heavy deforestation on the slopes of the hills in Kodagu led to the severe landslides. The soils are generally dark brown to dark reddish brown and black in colour due to the accumulation of organic matter. Soil degradation is one of the major threats in these areas due to deforestation and wrong land use practices and the soil degradation leads to the loss of accumulated organic matter, soil structure and nutrient degradation. The health of soil is a primary concern to farmers and the global community whose livelihoods depend on well managed agriculture.

A few field photographs of the field visit are given under:



