

WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATIONS

**Department of Geography & Geoinformatics
Bangalore University, Bengaluru**

5. GUEST LECTURE

Geography and Geoinformatics, Bangalore University celebrated World Soil Day 2017. Students of both M.sc Geography and Geographical Information System, research scholar and teachers were gathered in the Bangalore university campus with dress code on the eve of World Soil Day.

Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay, Senior Scientist and eminent speaker has been invited to grace the occasion. Dr. Ashok D Hangagi, Chairman, Department of Geography & Geoinformatics, presided over the function. Prof. A.S.Rayamane, Dr. B.Manikam, ISRO senior scientist (Rtd.) and Prof. B.Easwarappa were also present on the celebration.

Dr.S.Bandyopadhyay addressed the gathering and narrated the purpose of World Soil Day. The scientist explained how various satellite can be implied to extract soil information and make soil mapping. Briefing to the students he also expressed how different spectral bands could be used in investigating soil moisture and their degradation. He also explained about soil characteristics, physical and chemical properties, survey methods, statistical analysis involved in visualizing the data, methods of preparing soil maps. He insisted the students and research scholars to involve in soil mapping using Indian Remote Sensing data. There are lots of opportunities available for the Geography and Geoinformatics students to take part in research related to soil mapping he said.

Dr. Ashok D Hanjagi has critically explained and emphasized the facts about the World Soil Day and the helpfulness of the soil for human being in various ways. He also expressed his unhappiness that lots of anthropogenic activities involved in degrading the quality and the wealth of the soil in general and South Asia particular. He threw light on soil composition, drivers involved in soil degradation and steps to be taken to control the soil degradation. He also discussed about the biodiversity and the various living ecosystem existed in the upper layer of the soil. He appealed the also the geographers and students to involve in creating awareness regarding soil importance among the public. He discussed that it is the responsibility of the geographer to understand the status and distribution of soil in local and global level to stand forward for protecting the soil. He finally ended his speech with the information saying "If you protect the soil , the soil in turn will protect you".

Addressing to the gathering Professor Dr. S.Rayamane has shared the different views and role of human about the soil in different stages of our life. He also expressed his views on the soil's role in agricultural production and food security.

Dr. B.Manikam retired scientist ISRO insisted to take up necessary care for the soil to protect the earth, the ways to preserve it, the types of crops that can be grown according to the type and health of soil available on the ground. He also emphasized the ongoing research about the soil by the Karnataka state government.

Dr.B.Easwarappa a senior professor (Rtd.) has discussed about the zonation of soil, various soil related institutions available in our country, impact of green revolution on soil quality and how the human have destroyed the health of the soil. He also emphasized the necessary for micro level study and the watershed related issues and the national and international policies involved in soil management.

The students of M.sc Geoinformatics have actively participated and designed the posters, and given the speech about the soil day.

Dr.Rita Basanna has introduced chief guest and invited all the chief guests over to the stage.

Ms.M.Tamilelakkia has anchored the whole programme. Finally the celebration is ended with national anthem.

A few photographs of the Guest Lecture is given below.



