

Enhancing Awareness for Biodiversity Conservation and Intellectual Property Rights

On 8th September 2023, the Eco-Biodiversity Club under the Faculty of Sciences organized an invited talk titled "*Enhancing Awareness for Biodiversity Conservation and Intellectual Property Rights.*" The event, held at the departmental level, aimed to promote an understanding of biodiversity conservation and its relationship with intellectual property rights. Esteemed speaker Dr. Neelu Sood, Retired Professor and Ex-Chairperson of the Department of Botany, Kurukshetra University, graced the occasion with her insightful lecture. The event was meticulously coordinated by Convener Dr. Chanchal Malhotra and Co-Conveners Dr. Kirpa Ram and Dr. Ishu Khangwal. A total of 70 participants, including students and faculty members, actively engaged in the session.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Chanchal Malhotra, who highlighted the pressing need for awareness about biodiversity and its preservation. Dr. Neelu Sood delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk that delved into the intricate connections between biodiversity conservation and intellectual property rights. She emphasized how sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to innovation and economic growth while protecting traditional knowledge. Dr. Sood's session also covered legal frameworks and global conventions related to biodiversity and intellectual property.

Interactive discussions followed the lecture, providing participants an opportunity to clarify doubts and share their perspectives on the subject. The event fostered an environment of learning and collaboration, leaving a lasting impact on the attendees.

This event held profound significance from a societal perspective as it sought to address two critical global challenges: biodiversity loss and equitable sharing of resources. Biodiversity is the cornerstone of human survival, offering ecosystem services, food security, and medicinal resources. Intellectual property rights play a pivotal role in ensuring that innovations derived from biodiversity are used ethically and sustainably. By raising awareness about these interconnected themes, the event empowered participants to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of intellectual property.

The objectives of the event align directly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 (*Life on Land*), which emphasizes the need to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Additionally, the discussions

addressed SDG 12 (*Responsible Consumption and Production*) and SDG 16 (*Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*) by advocating for sustainable resource management and fair governance in intellectual property rights.

The enthusiastic participation of 70 attendees, including students and faculty members, demonstrated a strong commitment to learning about biodiversity conservation and intellectual property rights. The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and encouraged attendees to adopt sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives. Participants left the event with a deeper understanding of their role in contributing to biodiversity preservation and the importance of safeguarding intellectual property rights.



The invited talk on "*Enhancing Awareness for Biodiversity Conservation and Intellectual Property Rights*" was a successful initiative by the Eco-Biodiversity Club under the Faculty of Sciences. It emphasized the critical need for biodiversity conservation in the face of escalating environmental challenges and the role of intellectual property in ensuring equitable resource sharing. By fostering awareness and aligning with global sustainability goals, the event reinforced the department's dedication to promoting environmental stewardship and intellectual growth among its members.