

**SUMMARY OF AN AWARENESS PROGRAM ON THE OCCASION OF  
"WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY" - TOBACCO, A THREAT TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT"**

***ORGANIZED BY***

**BOTANICAL SOCIETY, DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES IN BOTANY,  
UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE, MANASAGANGOTRI, MYSORE – 570006**

**31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022**

The department had organized an awareness program on the occasion of **World No Tobacco Day** on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022. Department teaching faculties, non teaching faculties, Research scholar students were actively participated. The function was chaired by the Dr. K. N Amruthesh, Professor and Chairman of the department. The program was inaugurated by planting a sapling at medicinal garden. After planting all were gathered at Linnaeus hall. Ms. Kusuma G, class representative anchored the function, Ms. Sriraksha M.Sc student sung invocation song and Prof. Rajukumar H. Garampalli, Secretary, Botanical society of the department welcomed the gatherings and presented welcome speech. The other dignitaries present were Professor Shobha Jagannath, Professor G.R. Janardhana, Professor S. Leelavathi, Professor M.S. Sharada, Professor M.S. Nalini. Guest Faculties, Research Scholars, M.Sc. Students and Office Staffs of our department were present and actively participated. Number of beneficiaries present were around 78 members in which 66 participants were students.

Students of the departments presented the speech. The presentations of students speech spreads the lights on the negative and harmful aspects of tobacco starting from the production of the tobacco from agricultural field to the market. The summary of the presentations of the students as follows-

Every year, on 31 May, WHO and partners everywhere mark World No Tobacco Day, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there will be more than 8 million tobacco-related deaths a year by 2030, amounting to 10% of annual deaths worldwide. Deforestation for tobacco growing has many serious environmental consequences – including loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and degradation, water pollution and increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Tobacco growing usually involves substantial use of chemicals – including pesticides, fertilizers and growth regulators. These chemicals may affect drinking water sources as a result of run-off from tobacco growing areas. Research has also shown that tobacco crops deplete soil nutrients by taking up more nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium than other major crops.

Intensive lobbying and investments by multinational tobacco companies along with market liberalization measures have encouraged the expansion of tobacco agriculture in low- and middle-income countries. Many of these countries have limited legislative and economic capacities to resist multinational tobacco companies' influence and investments. As a consequence of expanded tobacco agriculture, there are short-term economic benefits for some farmers, but there will be long-term social, economic, health and environmental detriments for many others

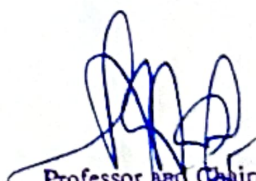
The health impacts of environmental tobacco smoke exposure include lung cancer, cardiovascular disease and pulmonary disease. Exposure to residual

chemicals in environments where smoking has taken place may also have human health impacts. There are also environmental impacts of manufacturing and disposing of the plastic, metal and butane used in making cigarette lighters. Cigarettes remain an important cause of accidental fires and resulting deaths.

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded piece of waste globally. The non-biodegradable cellulose acetate filter attached to most manufactured cigarettes is the main component of cigarette butt waste and trillions of filter-tipped butts are discarded annually. Hazardous substances have been identified in cigarette butts – including arsenic, lead, nicotine and ethyl phenol. These substances are leached from discarded butts into aquatic environments and soil. It is possible that tobacco product waste may also prove to be a significant environmental contaminant and potential human health hazard through bioaccumulation in the food-chain.

It is clear that tobacco control intersects with other pressing global issues such as sustainable development, environmental policy, climate change, trade agreements and human rights. By taking broad-based but effective action against the environmental hazards created by the tobacco industry, the demand for tobacco products will be further reduced. With strengthened environmental policies, there will be increased costs for tobacco products, decreased social acceptance of tobacco use and changes in the most commonly used tobacco products.

After the students presentation, Chairperson given his presidential address to the students and gatherings spoke on importance of World No tobacco day. After the presidential speech, vote of thanks presented by Mr. Rajashekara class representative.



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