

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

World Environment Day Celebrations
5th June 2013

The theme for this year's World Environment Day celebrations is '*Think. Eat. Save*'. 'Think.Eat.Save' is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your footprint. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, one in every seven people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of five die daily from hunger.

Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year's theme – Think.Eat.Save – encourages you to become more aware of the environmental impact of the food choices you make and empowers you to make informed decisions.

In the above context, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Panthaghati, Shimla has celebrated the **World Environment Day** with school children, at the upcoming Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA) near Potter Hill, Shimla. About 40 students of Government Senior School, Summer Hill participated in the awareness programmes. Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist Incharge of the Arboretum, gave a talk on this year's UNEP theme of 'Think.Eat.Save' in the present day's context. He apprised the children about the wastage of resources with simple examples like – "If food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of this food are also lost. For example, it takes about 1,000 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk." He also laid stress for selecting foods that have less of an environmental impact, such as organic foods that do not use chemicals in the production process. In the end Dr. Jishtu advised the children to 'think before you eat and help save our environment!'

Students and teachers also delivered their views on the occasion with impromptu speeches and slogans. Later the children were taken around the arboretum and shown the use and importance of native species planted there. The children were very enthusiastic about visiting a Mist Chamber and Shade House, where a variety of medicinal plants and orchids were displayed and enquiry after enquiry from the students followed.



A KALEIDOSCOPE OF THE **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** CELEBRATIONS AT THE WESTERN HIMALAYAN TEMPERATE ARBORETUM (WHTA), POTTERS HILL, SHIMLA.