

A report on



THE ONE DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING CUM WORKSHOP ON TECHNIQUES OF VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION IN HORTICULTURAL PLANTS

Organized by THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, NONGSTOIN COLLEGE, in collaboration with THE DISTRICT HORTICULTURE OFFICE

DATE: 9th NOVEMBER 2023

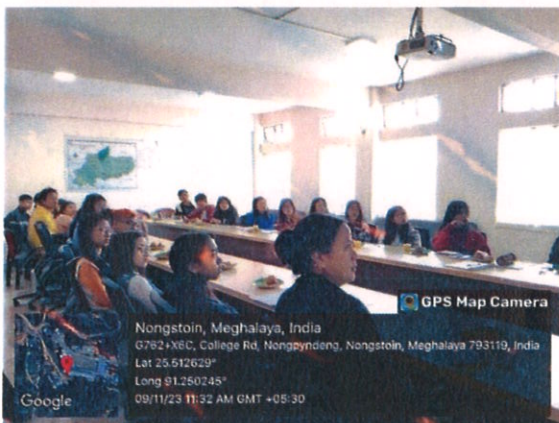
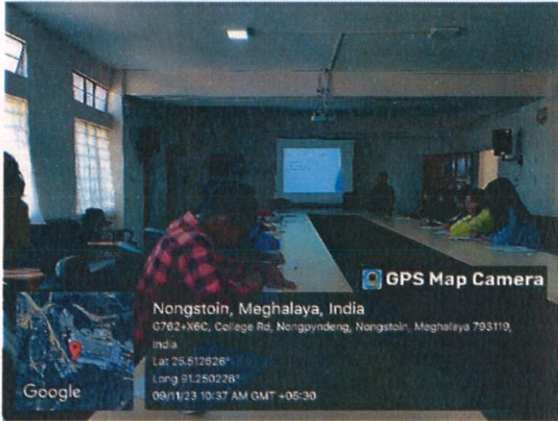
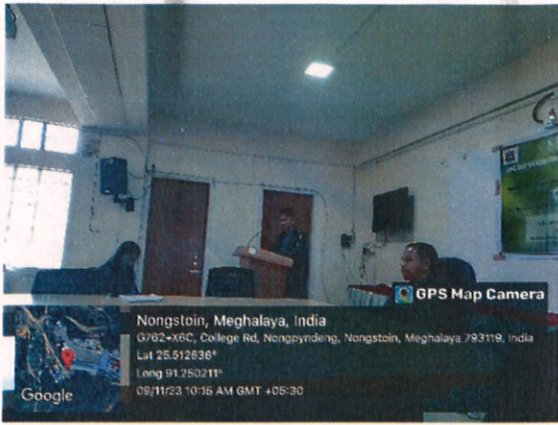
TIME: 10:00 AM

VENUE: NONGSTOIN COLLEGE AND THE DISTRICT HORTICULTURE OFFICE, NONGSTOIN, MEGHALAYA

The Department of Botany with a vision to give awareness, diversify, educate and arouse interest in the field of Horticultural Science among the students organized a **One Day Hands-On Training Cum Workshop On Techniques Of Vegetative Propagation In Horticultural Plants** in collaboration with the District Horticulture Office, Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills District on the 9th November 2023. The main objective of the workshop is to emphasize and highlight the tremendous importance of horticulture in various initiatives with an in-depth focus on propagation and maintenance of plants for the purpose of conservation and/or income generation.

The workshop commenced at 10:00 AM with a short inaugural programme conveyed by Dr. L. Kharwanlang. Dr. Kharwanlang gave an outline of the programme, introducing the theme of the workshop and highlighting the purpose and outcome. She emphasized the importance of such workshops providing hands-on training to the participants in giving first hand experience of the different techniques which would otherwise be just theoretical learning. It was followed by the welcome speech from Shri. M. Marthong, who gave a warm reception to all the participants and most importantly, the resource person.

The forenoon session was divided into two lecture series delivered by Shri. F. Lyngkhoi who is the Horticulture Development Officer, West Khasi Hills District and Dr. J. V. Marbaniang, HOD, Department of Botany, Nongstoin College. In his lecture, Shri. F. Lyngkhoi, spoke on the basic methodologies of vegetative plant propagation. He discussed in detail the various techniques of propagation which included Grafting, Layering, Budding and Cutting. Dr. J.V.Marbaniang delivered a short presentation which was named, "A future

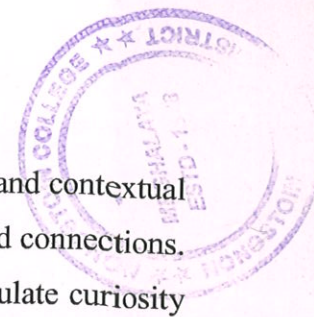




Nongstoin, Meghalaya, India
G7GH+X52, Nongstoin, Meghalaya 793119, India
Lat 25.527286°
Long 91.278456°
09/11/23 02:49 PM GMT +05:30

L. Fro
Principal
Nongstoin College
Nongstoin

FIELD TRIP TO SWER SACRED GROOVE, MEGHALAYA



The main objective of conducting field trip for students is to reinforce experiential and contextual learning. Field trips are a way of enhancing classroom learning by making real world connections. Field trips expose students and provided a hands-on learning experiences that stimulate curiosity and engage students actively, enhancing their critical thinking skills and give them a chance to think and understand about the topic taught in class room from a different perspective.

On the 27th October, 2023, Botany Department of Nongstoin College organised the field trip for the 1st semester and 3rd semester students to Swer Sacred Groove, Swer. Swer a small village not too far away from Shillong (approximately 25 kms). Is quite famous for harbouring one of the Sacred Groves found in Meghalaya. As the name suggests, 'swer' is associated with one of the clan residing in the village, the Clan Swer being the most prominent. The Sirdar of the village look after and protect the Sacred Grove. The sacred grove is known as "Law Ryngkew" to the locals. Nothing can be taken from the grove for commercial purposes and not even a speck or a seed. Tendrils known as 'jyrmi' in the local used as a rope or a support cannot be taken. Adjacent to the 'Law Ryngkew' is another grove little less sacred and known as 'Law Adong'. This grove is used for collection of firewood on occasion.

The students along with the faculty members trekked the forest and experienced the tranquility of the place. The objective of the trip was to orient students on the traditional knowledge systems that gave importance to ecological preservation/conservation. The trip is an essential part in partially fulfilling the requirements of 1st semester and 3rd semester BSc Degree in Botany.

On reaching the place the whole team including both the students and the faculty members, we had lunch and after that groups were divided so that proper study of the plants that are available in the grove can be thoroughly done in time. On entering the grove it is seen that the grove has a special role in conserving the environment. It maintains the functions of ecosystem, enhance diversity of species, regulates ground water and so on. The important plant species that are present there are the Red Rhododendron, orchids, ferns and lichens are seen scattering the forest. *Engelhardtia spicata*, *Exbucklandia populnea*, *Myrica esculenta*, *Lycopodium*, *Balanophora sp*, *vivurnum sp*, *Rhododendron sp*, *xanthoxylum sp*, *Hypochaeris sp*, *Alnus sp*, *Myrica negi*, *Lycopodium sp*, *Selaginella sp*, ferns like *Pteris sp*, fungi, *Hedera sp*, *Aralia armata*, *Camelia caduca*, *Iteachinensis*, *Pinus khasiana*, *Pyrukhasiana*, *Rhododendron arborium*, *Schima khasiana*, *Clerodendrum sp*, *Rubus sp*, *Balanophora sp*, many bamboo sp and some climbers, *Eupatorium sp*, *Gnaphalium sp*, *Osbeckia sp*, *Melastoma sp*, *Centella asiatica*, *Houttuynia sp* etc.

In conclusion, the field trip benefited the students greatly. It has given an understanding of how the forefathers of indigenous people made a simple way for conservation of sacred forests by attaching various orthodox religious laws, myths and taboos attached with them.

Over the years, these forests have become a part of the cultural life of the indigenous people of the Meghalaya. These forests often act as a gene bank, as they are rich in genetic resources. Through strong belief to the different environment protecting deities, they guard their natural environment through cultural practices. Here the protection of the Swer sacred forest is based on the community's cultural resource management. Therefore, they maintain biodiversity through the protection of the sacred forest.

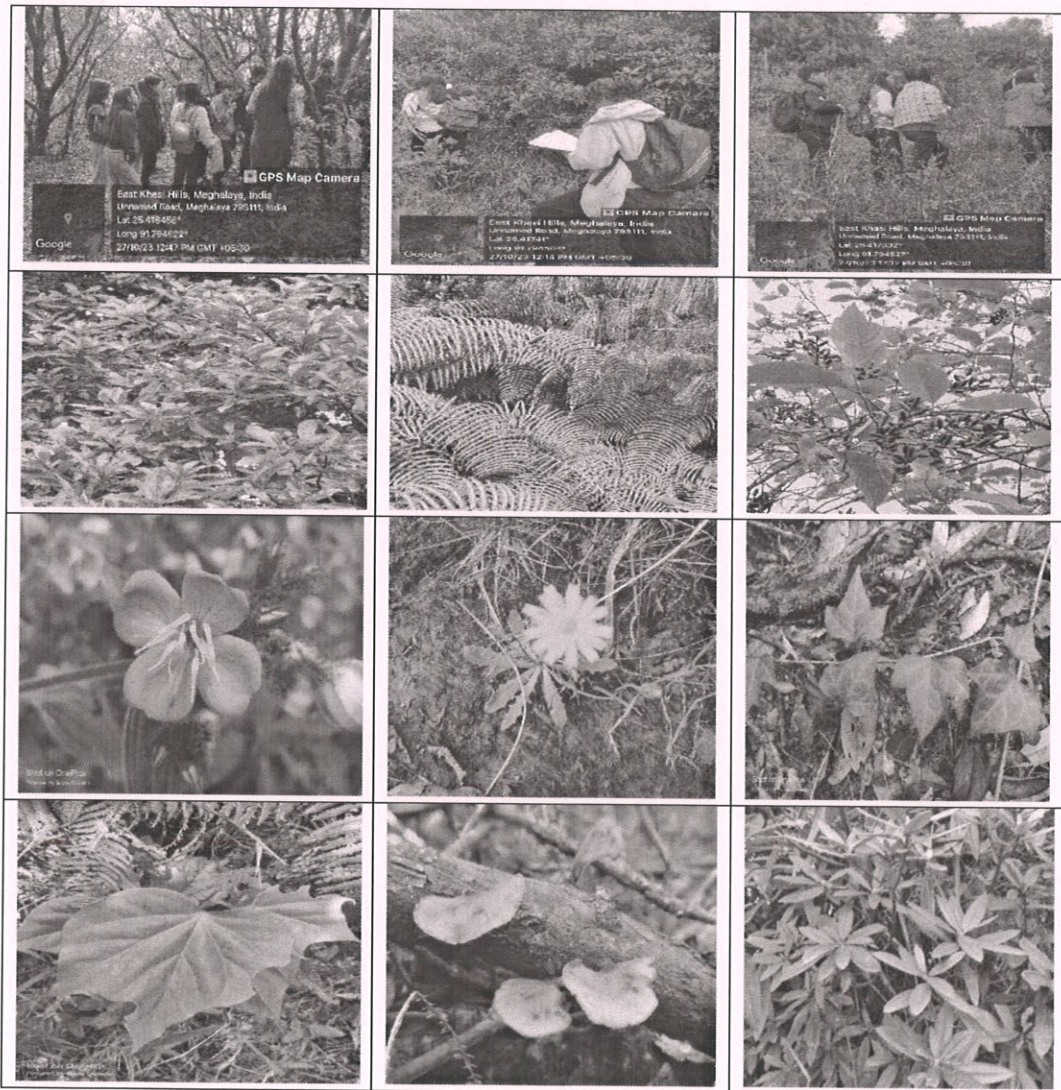





Fig: Some of the plant species encountered during the trip and some of the activities Done inside of the Sacred Groove.


 Principal
 Nongstoin College
 Nongstoin