

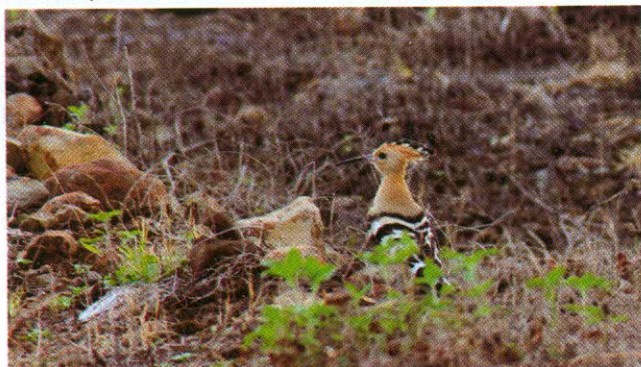
N.2: Vanasanchar at RRCAT:

Vanasanchar, a nature walk activity, was organized in the RRCAT campus on Sep 27, 2014 under the aegis of RRCAT Staff Club. About 300 persons including employees, family members, AECS students and teachers took part in two walks. Dr. P. D. Gupta, Director, RRCAT and Dr. S. P. Kale, Padmashree Awardee & Head, Nuclear Agriculture and Biotechnology Division, BARC participated in both walks. The aim of the walks was to enjoy and appreciate nature's bounty during the rains. Buses were arranged to take the participants from a convenient collection point to the starting point of each walk. Participants were divided into small groups and each group was accompanied by one coordinator, one member of Horticulture cell and one or two amateur naturalists.



A group of participants along one of the trails in the unoccupied technical area during Vansanchar 1

Vanasanchar 1 was organized during 6.30 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. and took place in a part of the unoccupied technical area of RRCAT. During this walk, the participants were very excited to see the immense possibilities for future big projects in RRCAT. One and all climbed up to the ridge to get a bird's eye view of the campus and surrounding areas. Some were more interested in bird-watching and were rewarded with the sight of a hoopoe, rarely seen in the inhabited parts of the campus, and many other birds.



A hoopoe, sighted during the Vansanchar

Unmindful of the slush and overgrown grass on paths, participants explored the large scale plantations of mango (2200 trees), ber (800 trees), sitaphal (250 trees) and jatropha (10,000 trees) and terrain appropriate forestry plantation including tree species like neem, aritha, amla, beheda, khejri, sandalwood etc. It was a good opportunity to appreciate the biodiversity of the campus of the RRCAT and explore the continued efforts being made to increase the green cover.



A white Egret (left) and a pond heron (right) photographed during the Vansanchar

Vanasanchar 2 took place during 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. in RRCAT colony area around the 'Sukhniwas' lake and the upper lake. Vanasanchar 2 started with a very motivating talk by Dr. Kale for the students and an interesting anecdote about the grey hornbill by Shri. D. A. Gawali of RRCAT. The participants visited the plantation done around the upper lake which included species like glaricidia, peepal, imli, mahua and sheesham. They also saw the pre-plantation preparation for transplantation of large trees. The groups then moved on to the Sukhniwas lake and the 'Nisargruna' biogas plant.



A group of AECS students near the upper lake plantation during Vansanchar 2

All participants were very appreciative of the collective efforts of RRCAT in developing the campus in an eco-friendly manner.

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