Without conserving Nature, nobody can live in this world, Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan former Environmental minister for central Government said during the inaugural address of the three day ecological consultation organized by CSI. By afforestation we might be able to plant thousands of trees we had cut, but we may not be able to compensate the ecological damage caused by the trees we had cut. There should be a balance between development and Environment. Once the land, water and soil have been polluted or poisoned, it cannot be brought back to the original state. Hence the government has been taking every step to check this, while the lobby working in favour of industrialists has been criticizing the ministry of environment for blocking the industrial growth in the country. Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan congratulated CSI for the farsighted vision to incorporate the ecological conservation in the constitution of CSI as a mission of the Church. Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan released the book ‘Green Church’, edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, by giving the first copy to Bishop Dr. B. D. Prasad Rao. Bishop B. N. Fenn, chairman of ecological concerns committee presided over the function. Rev. Dr. Sadananda, General Secretary of CSI Synod welcomed the gathering. Dr. V. S. Vijayan (Environmentalist) and Rev. Lee Ho (Korea) were present on the Dias. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, Convener of Ecological concerns Committee proposed the vote of thanks.
The Ecological Concerns Committee of the Synod of the Church of South India envisages a very important concern of the Church and an inalienable concern of the entire oikumene. In view of the ever-increasing ecological challenges, the Christian response of justice, peace and integrity of creation needs to be disseminated. These values should become an integral part of our life of prayer and devotion, in our daily lives and in the exercise of our ministries. Due to phenomena surrounding climate change, nature is now “the new poor,” and is as vulnerable and expendable as poor people and communities have been. As human beings, we do not live our lives independently, or as the saying goes, no one is an island. Rather we are networked with our ecosystems, nature and the entire cosmos. Climate change is also an issue relating to social justice or even that of justice, rather than attracting just token Christian environmentalism.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Alliance for Religions and Conservation (ARC) have honoured the ecological contributions and long-term commitment of the CSI in protecting the life in this planet through an award bestowed on 3rd December 2009. This event marked one of the historic moments in the life of the CSI. The CSI Synod Ecological Concerns Committee has been publishing books on theme relating to eco-theology in order to educate and sensitize congregations on this very serious issue. Awards such as ‘Green Diocese’, ‘Green Parish’, ‘Green institution’ have been constituted to motivate Dioceses, parishes and institutions towards this end.

This Eco News bulletin has evolved to document the ecological work of the Dioceses and it is our sincere hope that it will encourage Dioceses to share interactions, events, projects and work relating to ecology and the environment. On behalf of the Synod of the Church of South India, I appreciate the commitment and leadership of the CSI Synod Ecological Committee especially that of its convenor Prof. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu and commend the active involvement of the Diocesan Eco-directors.

Rev. Dr. D. R. Sadananda
General Secretary of Church of South India

The Church of South India recognizes that God’s mission has various dimensions. The constitution of CSI clearly specifies the mission of the Church 1) Proclamation of Gospel 2) Nurturing the people of God, 3) service 4) establish justice in society 5) Stewardship of creation. Perhaps, this is the only Church in India that has specifically mentioned the ecological concerns in the constitution itself. In the constitution it is written “The Church seeks to create awareness among all people about environmental and ecological concerns and thereby to care for God’s creation. It endeavours to encourage people to refrain from excessive exploitation of nature’s resources and to strive to keep the earth a habitable place for the present as well as future generations.”

We have constitutional backing and have been functioning since 1992. The SECC has published more than 10 books as resource books so far. CSI got the UNDP Award in 2009 for the eco conservation activities. But it is time for us to evaluate to what extent we have been fruitful in our ecological activities. The ecological work is a part of our faith. As Christians we have to protect the integrity of the creation. We want to teach the eco-biblical concerns at the grass root level. For that we have published a book called Green Church. We sent around 25 books to all the Dioceses during the month of March 2014. I request all of you to make necessary arrangements to make use of the book at the grass root level. If you need more books, we can make it available.

We request all the parish eco committees to start functioning within the next four months. Then only our concerns will reach the grass root level. We request all the diocesan eco committees to participate actively in eco conservation programmes and send the news with photographs to the synod office. Next bulletin will come out during the month of January 2014.
Climate change is a Justice issue

Rev. Dr. Royce M. Victor
EMS Liaison Officer CSI Synod

One of the major issues our planet faces today is ecological crisis, more specifically, climate change, which is above all is a justice issue. The people who are already suffering most from climate change/global warming are those who have done the least to cause it, and have the least resource to do anything about it. For example, the nomadic tribes in northern Kenya, who walk hundreds of kilometers in search of water, only to encounter danger and conflict when they find some. The poor farming families in Bangladesh, forced by rising sea levels to leave their homes for temporary and illegal camps on embankments, where they cannot earn a living. None of these people have more than a minimal responsibility for CO2 emission that have caused, and continue to exacerbate, the current crisis. Also, whenever there is an ecological crisis, whether in a developed country or in a developing country, the poor suffer the most. Their lives are always at risk. The people who have money or power or influence escape easily from it. On the one hand, the rich nations have reached a peak of development, on the other; the poor nations are still struggling to get on to the development ladder. So the justice issue of climate change is directly related to the development model of today’s world.

Climate change is not mentioned in the Bible directly, nor has it so far been part of contemporary systematic theology. Very recently Christian theologians started thinking seriously about biblical reflection on climate change. Now increasing number of theologians and Christian believers are of the opinion that the God of the Bible is a God of justice who protects, loves and cares for the most vulnerable among God’s creations. They also find that the present world development model is threatening the lives and livelihoods of many, especially among the world’s poorest people, and destroying biodiversity. Therefore, they affirm that the Christian vision should be aimed at the possibilities to overcome/dethrone the existent model of development based on over-consumption and greed.

Recently, Pope Francis made the religious case for tackling climate change, calling on his fellow Christians to become “Custodians of Creation” and issuing a dire warning about the potentially catastrophic effects of global climate change. He argues that respect for the “beauty of nature and the grandeur of the cosmos” is a Christian value, and failure to care for the planet risks apocalyptic consequences. He indicates, “Because if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us! Never forget this.” He further points out, “Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.” Pope also says that humanity’s destruction of the planet is a sinful act, likening it to self-idolatry. “When we exploit Creation we destroy the sign of God’s love for us, in destroying Creation we are saying to God: ‘I don’t like it! This is not good!’ ‘So what do you like?’ ‘I like myself!’ – Here, this is sin! Do you see?’” Throughout the speech he reiterates that environmental justice and economic justice are inextricably connected to each other.

As Desmond Tutu points out, “just as we are all part of the problem, so we are all also part of the solution. We all need to come to terms with the forces that have created this crisis and the resources within our traditions that can motivate us to resolve the crisis. One of those traditions is our biblical heritage.” These words clearly elucidate the imperative to look at the bible for guidance, inspiration, and encouragement to resolve the crisis.

Green Diocese, Green Parish, Green institution

Synod has instituted Green awards from this biennium. The performance will be evaluated on the basis of half yearly reports. We have already published the guidelines on Green Diocese, Green parish and Green institution awards. Applications for these awards will be short listed during October 2015. The awards will be decided after continuous assessment. If necessary an expert committee will visit the Dioceses. Regular publication of news items, sending of the reports etc have to be done from the month of August 2014 onwards. (For Guidelines contact the Convener)
The Church has a prophetic role to raise the voice against the injustices taking place in their area, opined the national consultation organised by CSI Synod. The consultation called upon the all the believers in CSI to be a part of the agitations going on all over India to protect the environment as a part of their faith.

Three day consultation was held during the month of March 2014 at Chennai. Dr. Alexander Jesudasan, Principal of Madras Christian College, delivered the keynote address. He explained the cause and impact of Climate Change. Dr. V.S. Vijayan, Director of Salim Ali foundation, Coimbatore delivered the first lecture on Climate Justice. As he was the member of Gadgil committee, he could explain the scientific need to protect the Western ghats. The multinational companies and the corporate lobbies are trying to exploit the natural resources of the western ghats. Western ghat is the source of water and it is rich in biodiversity. Mr. C.E. Karunakaran, an environmentalist working in Tamilnadu explained the current international negotiations on Climate Change. He also explained how justice being denied to underdeveloped countries by developed countries. Mr. Varghese C Thomas, Chief Sub editor of Malayala Manorama explained the environmental exploitation going on all over India. Being a journalist, he could see the environmental disasters occurring all over India. He called upon all environmental NGO’s raise their voices against the injustices going all over India. Three Eco-Bible studies were held during the three days of the consultation. Dr.
M.P.Joseph, Professor of Cheng Chung University, Taiwan took a Bible study based on Genesis. Rev.Viji Varghese Eapen, former Director of Ecological Department of Synod took a meditation based on Water. Rev.Dr.D.R.Sadandanda, Professor of New Testament, Karnataka Theological Seminary (Also the secretary of CSI), took a Bible study on Green God and Green Jesus in Bible. Mr. G. Balachandran, international Eco-leadership trainer in his seven hour training motivated each and everyone present in the hall. As the consultation is intended to build up eco-concerns groups all over south India, Mr. Balachandran’s eco –leadership training programme helped to incite the participants in this direction. Challenging and inspirational training was highly appreciated by the participants.

According to the Kerala State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) document, the nine coastal districts in Kerala are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. It estimates that sea level rise of 3.5 to 34.6 inches till year 2100 would result in salinity intrusion into groundwater resources, endangering wetlands and inundating valuable land and coastal communities. The SAPCC report also notes that climate change might accelerate the intensity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea. The probable maximum storm surge height in Kerala is estimated to be between 2.3 m to 3.5 m, going up to 4.2 m during high tide. Ignoring all these bare facts the state government is diluting all the environmental protection laws for corporate lobbies. Is it possible for Churches in Kerala to be silent when the whole creation is going to be in danger?. Similar cases have been reported by delegates from Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka also.

Infrastructure development, environmental issues arising out of paddy land conversion, razing of hills, sand and granite quarrying, groundwater depletion and drying up of natural water sources leading to water scarcity even in river basins are some of the issues that came up for discussion.

International Ecological Conference

CSI Synod Ecological Concerns committee is organising an International eco conference in partnership with CMS College, Kottayam from 21st to 25th January 2015 at Kottayam. Three days stay will be at Kottayam and two days will be at Nilackal, a forest in Sabarimala mountain. There will be trip through the forests which will end up at Thekkedy. If any Diocese is interested to arrange an exhibition of their work, space will be provided. You will get an opportunity to interact with the foreign groups also. For details contact the Convener.

Eco Resource Persons

CSI Ecological department would like to bring up three persons in each Diocese as Eco theological experts. Two clergy and one layman interested in Ecology can participate in this programme.
Eco directors meeting

The biennium onwards all the Dioceses shall have an Eco-Director/Convener and a committee at the Diocesan level. One of the missions of CSI as per constitution is Eco-conservation. In some Dioceses Ecological work is one of the programmes of Social or Welfare Boards. The General Secretary of CSI in his letter to Bishops dated 21st March 2014 requested to constitute ecological committees. “If the Diocese has no Ecological committee /Department, I request you to kindly constitute one and appoint a convener at the earliest to coordinate the ecological concerns of the Diocese. If you think a constitutional provision is needed for such a committee in your Diocese, you may kindly appoint an adhoc committee.”

We have given awareness to the local churches regarding the eco-concern in our day to day life, such as keeping our premises clean, the churches, houses and our work places and thereby to be the change makers in the society. We have made necessary arrangements to make use of the solar energy in the northern part of our diocese in order to reduce/cut down the usage of alternate current at the diocesan level. We have given the awareness regarding the waste management, usage of paper plates and glasses during our church and house programmes and strictly implementing the non usage of use and throw plastics. We have planted teak saplings in our church premises, around cemetery fences/compound walls and in our unused land in order to have an eco-friendly environment. We have given awareness to our children thro’ vocational bible school training by setting a day apart particularly as an eco awareness day, we teach them the non usage of plastics, minimum usage of water and power resources and to use CFL bulbs for lighting where ever necessary, plant saplings to grow more trees for a healthy atmosphere, in and around the places where we live. We bring awareness regarding ‘3’ — r’s reduce, reuse, and recycle, educating this formula to all the age groups at the church level. Our future concern is to implement all these eco concerned programmes at the diocesan level thro’ eco committees, and at area level, and particularly to educate all the clergy thro’ seminars and to make the whole community the change makers and partners in creating an eco friendly society.

Rev. Ravindranath Joseph K
Karnataka northern diocese
Regional Programmes

Kerala Regional Eco Council

Kerala Regional Eco council was held on 8th May 2014 at CSI retreat Centre, Kottayam. Representatives from North, South, East, Madhya Kerala Dioceses participated in the Council. Dr.Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, Convener of CSI Synod Ecological Committee presided over the Council. The Rt.Rev.Thomas K Oommen, Deputy Moderator of CSI Church inaugurated the meeting. Joseph Mar Dionosis Metropolitan of Orthodox Church delivered the keynote address.

Diocese is making much effort to preserve this fragile earth. So many projects have been implemented in our Diocese. Our Bishop Rt.Rev.Dr.Paul Vasanthakumar is very much interested in carrying out all the projects in our Diocese. Awareness about saving ‘God given earth’ is given to all the pastors, Heads of Institution, wardens and the congregations. Rain water harvest is done. CFL bulbs are used to save electricity. Waste lands are planted with thousands of saplings. Eco Sunday was observed in all churches. Saplings are provided to the congregation members. Competitions are held at schools. Program on abolishing use of plastics is also conducted. Green Award is given to Church, institution & hostel.

Trichirappally Tanjavur Diocese

Future plans. Producing manure out of kitchen waste. To take healthy diet and to avoid junk food especially to children. To follow reduce, reuse, recycle in daily life. To plant useful plants in vacant places. To give awareness to the public also.
Andhra Pradesh - Regional Council

Rev. E. B. S. Nadh, Regional Coordination, Telugu Speaking Dioceses, Ecological Concerns

Krishna Godavari (Coastal Andhra) Diocese had a privilege of organizing a two-day seminar on "Climate Justice" on 12th and 13th of May 2014, in Darshanam hall, CSITA BASS Complex, Vijayawada. Delegates from 5 Telugu speaking Dioceses attended the Seminar. The Seminar started with the welcoming words of Mr. G. Sudhir, Diocesan Secretary and was inaugurated by the Moderator Most Rev. Dr. G. Dyvasirvadam. Inaugural session was graced by Mrs. Ramani Ramya Krupa, President, Women's Fellowship, CSI Synod, Rev. V. I. Ratnaraju, Diocesan Treasurer, Dr. Mathew Koshy, Coordinator, Ecological Concerns, CSI Synod and Rev. Dr. Chilukuri Vasantha Rao, Principal, Andhra Christian Theological college, Hyderabad. Dr. G. Pramila Kumari, Rtd. Associate Professor in Economics, Dr. Mathew Koshy, Convener of CSI Synod Ecological Concerns Committee, Mr. P. Gracious, Rtd. Divisional Forest Officer. Rev. James Cecil Victor, Director, Pastoral Aid, department, Mr. G. Sudhir, Diocesan Secretary, K.G. Diocese addressed the gathering.

Kanyakumari Diocese

Distribution of ‘Green church’ books - The books issued for Kanyakumari diocese were issued to presbyters of churches, professors of colleges, school teachers and eco-concerned persons. Awareness campaign on ‘Eradication of plastics’ - An awareness campaign on the eradication of plastics was organized by the Kanyakumari diocese with the help of college students as well as NSS volunteers. The campaign included the following strategies: Creating awareness on the eradication of plastic. Educating the public regarding the disastrous effects of plastic. To impart the importance of plastic-free nation. The awareness programmes were conducted in the following areas: Marthandam, Kaliyakkavilai, Malaicode.
Tamilnadu Region

The Diocese of Madras Invited to Meet
Tamil Nadu Regional Eco Council
01st and 2nd August 2014
At: LITE Centre, Kilpauk

Presided by: The Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devashayam
&
The Rev. Dr. D. R. Sadananda

The Synod Ecological Commission

Organised by
No 15, Anna Salai, Chennai 600006

The Diocese of Madras Invited to Meet
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&
The Rev. Dr. D. R. Sadananda

The Synod Ecological Commission

Organised by
No 15, Anna Salai, Chennai 600006
1. Title “Care For Creation, Date: 15:02:2014, Place: St. Mark’s Cathedral M.G. Road Bangalore-1

2. Title “Water Crises in KGF a Faith Full Response.”
   Date: 16:03:2014 Place: St.Peter’s Church Kolar Gold Fields Gathering : Adults Resource Person : Sister. Celestine & Team (Better Tomorrow Movement)

3. “Student awareness Program” Date: 05/04/2014

4. “Student Awareness Program” Date: 14/06/2014
One day retreat for pastors: Lenten meditation on Eco perspective was held on 22nd Feb 2014 at Olcott memorial Church, Veruthempet. Speaker Fr. Jerry. More than 60 pastors were attended the program. Ponnai Anaicut festival started on 11th of April 2014, half day program was on climatic change. Rev Dr. Kadervel spoked about it. More than 65 women participated in it. Dr Prem from Chennai conducted two hours program by displaying many pictures through LCD showing the effect of climate change on the living organisms. 350 members participated in that program. To bring awareness regarding our environment- we kept two different dust bins one bio-waste and non bio waste, displayed plug cards, pamphlets regarding global warming were distributed, 1000 plants were given. Eco concern books were sold. The Zion hill festival was held on 8, 9 & 10 of May 2014.
In schools and institutions Eco-awareness programmes were organized. In churches “Cleaning and Greening” programmes have been initiated by church members. “Save Trees” campaigns were organized in Educational institutions and churches. Already planted tree seedlings were protected from cattle or trespassers. Tree guards were provided with saucer basin for rain water harvesting. “Plastic Free Zones” campaigns were organized in areas surrounding Gandhigir church and cleanliness maintained. “The World Environment Day” celebrations were conducted in schools and colleges in a fitting manner. In churches Environment Sunday Services were conducted with special order of services. Tree seedlings, ornamental plants, Fruit seedlings, were distributed to the church members. Vegetable seeds and Flowering seeds packets were also distributed in the same churches.
A float depicting the pictures of ECO awareness and announcing the slogans related to the tree plantations travelled the area in and around Salem. The float was in travel for around 20 days covering 200 villages. Pamphlets related to ECO awareness was also distributed to the public in those areas.

Apart from this environment day was celebrated on 5th June 2014. Trees were planted and importance of trees was explained in different angles by the staff members, students and the same was broadcasted in ANM TV channel.

JOHN S KENNEDY
Madras Diocese

Celebrated Diocesan Ecological Sunday on 27th July, 2014. Planted saplings in all the church premises.

Dornakal Diocese

Celebrated Diocesan Ecological Sunday on 27th July, 2014. Planted saplings in all the church premises.
On April 22, 2014 we observed EARTH DAY in our adopted village KaithariNagar. The programme was organized by final year B.sc nursing students, Mrs.Vijaya professor in medical surgical department and Prof. John Sam ArunPrabu addressed the gathering. 25 saplings were planted by our students and awareness pamphlets were distributed to the community people. We have planted more than one thousand saplings so far in and around Madurai.
**Tree plantation:**
Arogyavaram Medical Center is one of the best hospitals in south India for Tuberculosis treatment. Tree plantation ceremony is organized at Arogyavaram Medical Center every year on 19th July.

This year 102 Neem saplings have been planted on the campus from 19th July. All staff and students actively participated in this programme. An olive garden is also developed at AMC Campus with Olive plants from Jerusalem on 31-8-2013. Each Staff members planted Olive plant on their name in this Olive Garden.

A Tree plantation programme was organized on 15th Aug, 2014, in which all the staff and students actively participated in shrama dhan and planted 50 plants. The Climate is clean and dry at AMC and elevated 2700 feet above sea level with cooler nights and suitable for the growth of any kind of tree. The Campus is also pollution free by the Act of the Govt of India (Sanatorium Local Authority Act) this act doesn’t permit constructions of huge buildings and factories around the campus.

**Eco friendly Lighting:** CSI JCM Church Pastorate committee decided to reduce the Current charges. So in order to cut the expenses we remodeled the lighting system. we fixed all the CFL And LED lights

**Water harvesting:** Madanapalli is one of the biggest town in Chittor district, with great water scarcity. People get water once in 10 days from Municipal Corporation. People used to buy water from private tankers at the cost per tank 600 to 800 rupees. More than 290 bore wells dried off in town area, due to decrease of the ground water levels. In this connection in our CSI Girls high School compound we dug two big pits covered with gravel and sand etc. for water harvesting during the rainy season the rain water will flow in to the pit.

**Green Church campus.** CSI Rayalseema Diocese main churches such as CSI Central Church, Christ Church, in Kadapa, CSI JCM Church in Madanapalli, Holy Trinity Church in Anatapur are having Green church campuses. Recently Madanapalli CSI JCM Church garden and beautification has been done.

And also apart from church campus. There are some Schools also maintaining their garden with green fencing clean and green.

**Eco friendly openair worship:** CSI Madanapalli JCM Church conducts every year early morning Good Friday service. All the congregation members will come together to worship The Lord with Nature.

**Eco awareness programmes** Church is the place where all the believers come together to worship the Lord and listen the Word of God. So there we can give inspiring sermons and motivational talks on Eco concerns. We are encouraging people to maintain kitchen gardens to grow vegetables. And also teaching Sunday school children not to waste food and water.

**Give Cow Programme:** Rayalseema Diocese Launched a project in Madanapalli and Arogyavaram Divisions, called “Give a Cow Programme” with the Help of MPI (Mission Partnership in India) the Main intention is the poor families will benefit by selling Milk and Dung manure for strengthening the fields.
Conducted “Corbon Fast Rally” in Lent season with the school children and church members and all the CSI institutions in Eluru. Observed Environment Sunday in all the Churches- Plantation of plants by the church members and eco awareness programme was conducted on the same day evening (Power Point presentation). The order of service was translated and soft copy sent to the other dioceses in Telugu region and printed and supplied to KG diocesan Churches. Vegetable cultivation and Greens cultivation in the church campuses is going on. Eco Awareness programmes conducted in 2 villages - photos sent. Conducted an eco-awareness programme to the local pastors in Pastors fellowship – Eluru. Eco awareness programmes conducted for hostel and school students.

Rev. E. B. S. NADH, KG Diocese
The World Environmental day was celebrated in all churches on 1st June 2014. As part of it special worship order was printed and circulated to all churches for Divine services. The messages in the churches were based on Climate Justice. Our Bishop who is also the Chairman of the SECC inaugurated the eco-programs by planting Tree saplings at our Diocesan Retreat Centre premises along with the other department heads of our Diocese. The Bishop declared the Diocesan office and the Retreat Centre premises as “Plastic free Zone”. Special awareness meetings were arranged at Vaniyamkulam church under the leadership of our eco-volunteer Sri. Varghese Johnson. He took classes on rain water harvesting. Under the leadership of Diocesan Youth Department, we started a project named “MARAM ORU VARAM”. Through that the members of the youth fellowship planted 2014 various types of tree plants in the surrounding churches of our Diocesan Office, and took decision to take special care to nurture all of them. Along with the co-operation of the Forest Department we have distributed 5000 types of tree saplings in our schools in Wynad. The Forest Dept provided that plants free of cost. We have distributed 500 numbers at C.S.I. Church Meppadi and 500 in the Child Development Centre Meppadi. The book published by Synod ECC has been circulated to all the Clergy in the Diocese. At present we are planning a special project with the cooperation of Karuna Bal Vikas to distribute 350 solar lanterns to poor families, For which it will cost rupees 2600/ each and it will come about rupees 910000. Only 10% of that will be the church’s partnership and the rest will be from the Karuna Bal Vikas.
The ecology convention was held on 23rd January, 2014 at the Baker Compound, Kottayam. CSI Deputy Moderator and the Bishop in the Diocese of Madhya Kerala, Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen presided over the function and Dr. P. N. Suresh, the Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University delivered the keynote address. Bishop Eggony Pushya Lalitha of CSI Nandyal Diocese distributed the Green Awards instituted by the diocese under Green Church, Green House, Green Institution, Eco-friendly Construction categories. Hundreds of school students within the city participated in the programme.

Regional Eco-Leaders Meet

A consultation programme for Eco-leaders was organized by CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese for the leaders from the Malayalam region. CSI Deputy Moderator Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen inaugurated the consultation. H. G. Joseph Mar Dionysius Metropolitan of the Kolkotta Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Church conducted the Bible study. CSI Synod Ecology Concerns committee Convener Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu was the chief resource person for the programme. The Regional programme calendar for one year was prepared during the consultation.

Ecological Sunday Preparatory Seminar

This year’s Ecology Sunday was observed on 1st June, 2014. A preparatory programme for the preachers of Eco Sunday was arranged jointly with the Diocesan Youth Movement on 23rd May, 2014 at the St. Andrew’s Church, Chengannur. Bishop Thomas K. Oommen inaugurated the function and Rev. Shibin Varghese conducted the Bible Study on ‘Climate Justice’. Former Minister of Agriculture of the State, Sri. Mullakkara Retnakaran delivered the keynote address.

Ecology Sunday Celebrations

Ecology Sunday observation and celebration was conducted with a variety of programmes in the diocese. Deputation preachers preached in 405 churches. ‘Raise your voice for climate justice’ is the main theme for this year’s meditation. As part of the celebration planting trees and saplings, distribution of vegetable seeds, making rain water pits, environment seminars and debates, rallies and many other awareness programmes were organized with the support of other organizations of the diocese.

Environment Day Celebrations

The CSI Madhya Kerala Diocesan Ecological concerns committee organized a meeting and award function on the World Environment Day, that is on 20th June 2014 at the Baker Vidhyapith Kottayam, presided over by the Bishop Thomas K. Oommen. The function was inaugurated by the Mar Thoma Church Vallya Metropolitan Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom. The first and foremost ecology award of the diocesan ecology department was given to Sri. P. T. Thomas, Ex. MP of the Idukki Constituency who took a bold stand for the Gadgil Committee report.

Episcopal Statement

The Church of South India took a firm decision on the Gadgil committee report on protecting the Western Ghats. Though the rest of the mainline churches and the quarry mafias were against the report, Bishop Thomas K. Oommen and the Diocesan Ecological Concerns department fought against the forces that negate environment protection and those who was argue for the protection of the interests of the mafias and millionaires. An Episcopal letter was prepared and sent to all CSI churches within the diocese to
As part of coming month program our diocesan ecological committees is planning to organize a padayatra from melukavumattom to vagamon passing through muttom- koovappally- elappally- kannickal-pullickanam-vagamon. In connection with this program we are planning to organize corner meetings in important mission centers. This program is scheduled on 10th and 11th of next month, soon after onam.

Rev. Josline p Chacko

uphold all efforts that had been taken for the protection of the Western Ghats, in order to sustain and preserve life and our bio diversity, it is an inevitable task before us to take up this genuine issue and to fight for the protection of nature. The Episcopal statement read out in all CSI churches during the worship service made a significant impact on the public. Ecological Activities. We propagated the idea of bio-gas plants and it was installed in many houses in the Diocese. Parishes are cooperating in the rain harvesting projects. The diocese is encouraging ‘Ramacham’ cultivation to harvest rain water. The Diocese has undertaken 40 acres of Land for paddy field cultivation, Duck farming, Tapioca cultivation in many church compounds, Dairy etc. are the main innovative projects and activities recently started by the diocese directly.

Rev. Jiji Joseph, Convener, Ecological Concerns Committee

East kerala Diocese

As part of coming month program our diocesan ecological committees is planning to organize a padayatra from melukavumattom to vagamon passing through muttom- koovappally- elappally- kannickal-pullickanam-vagamon. In connection with this program we are planning to organize corner meetings in important mission centers. This program is scheduled on 10th and 11th of next month, soon after onam.

Rev. Josline p Chacko
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