

Mobile biodiversity fest ends on a colourful note

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad: The 14th Mobile Biodiversity Festival, organised by the Sangham women of Deccan Development Society came to a close in a vibrant and colourful valedictory ceremony that was organised at Pachhashaala of Machanoor village in Jarashangham Mandal of Medak district on Wednesday, according to Director of the Deccan Development Society PV Satheesh.

The month-long Mobile Biodiversity Festival traversed through more than 60 villages in four mandals of Medak District, viz Raikode, Nyalkal, Jarasangham and Zaheerabad; and sensitised people about the importance of millet-based biodiverse farming.

The festival was a unique opportunity to showcase the role played by millets in the social, cultural, ecological and economic life of the rural populace of Medak district. Sev-

eral eminent people including president of Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha Vishwanath Patil, prominent Supreme Court lawyer who has been fighting for the rights of indigenous communities in India Shruti Devi, IFS and Special Chief Secretary of the Forest Department Jayakumar, director of Paryavaran Vikas Kendra of Gujarat Tushar Pancholi and research scholar from Geneva Ms Carin P attended the colourful ceremony. The valedictory ceremony commenced with a colourful procession of festooned bullock-carts, dancers performing Kolaatam and traditionally attired singers. They started from the outskirts of Machanoor village and proceeded to the Pachhashaala. At the venue, tens of dancers and singers, all attired in traditional attire presented traditional art forms that are unique to Medak district.

One of the main features of the Biodiversity Festival, since

the beginning, has been the honouring of the outstanding millet farmers. Bio diverse farming systems are the manifestation of complex science that has evolved over generations, and the farmers involved in this are the pre-eminent conservators of biodiversity. This year, A Santoshamma from Raipalle Village, Mekala Sangamma from Tekuru Village, Tukkamma from Metlakunta Village, Tukkamma from Nagwar Village and Paramma from Guntamarpalle village were honoured for being outstanding practitioners of bio diverse farming and for conserving traditional farming knowledge with vigor and passion.

During the course of the month-long biodiversity festival, several competitions relating to agriculture and biodiversity were held for the children from rural schools in the four mandals of Jarasangham, Raikode, Nyalkal and Zaheerabad.