World day for combating Desertification and Drought- 2026 (17.06.2026)

Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Agriculture College, Perambalur, celebrated the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** on **17.06.2026** in the DSAC, Auditorium, organized by **Dr. Irene Vethamoni, Principal** under the co-ordination of **Dr. N. Arivukkumar,** Assistant Professor (Agronomy). The programme was organized to create awareness about land restoration, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and combating desertification, in line with this year's theme, **"Rangelands: Recognize, Respect and Restore."**

Various competitions, including essay writing, poetry writing, quiz, and pencil sketch, were conducted to promote environmental awareness among students. Participants enthusiastically showcased their talents, and the winners were awarded certificates and prizes. The programme commenced with a welcome address by **Mr. P. Sathish,** Vice Principal, who emphasized the importance of creating a green environment and adopting eco-friendly practices for a sustainable future.

The chief address was delivered by **Dr. Irene Vethamoni, Principal**, who highlighted the challenges of desertification, drought, land degradation, and water scarcity affecting agriculture and food security. She spoke about the successful **Rainwater Harvesting Scheme** introduced by former Chief Minister **Dr. J. Jayalalithaa** in 2001 and its role in improving groundwater resources across Tamil Nadu. She also emphasized the importance of **Arid Horticultural Systems**, particularly **Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)** cultivation, as a sustainable option for dryland farming. Further, she discussed water conservation measures such as check dams, farm ponds, and mulching, along with sustainable agricultural practices like crop rotation and intercropping. She highlighted the role of soil amendments in restoring degraded lands and improving soil health. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and successfully enhanced students' awareness of drought mitigation, sustainable land management, and environmental conservation.