

NATIONAL WORKSHOP on AGROBIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-ordinating department: DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, ASSAM UNIVERSITY,
SILCHAR

Jointly organized by
Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources,
Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
and
Assam University, Silchar

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Background

Agriculture plays a very important role in our country encumbered with the need to supply food and other products to the entire nation. More than fifty percent of India's population makes a living through agriculture. Census 2001 categorically states that 56.6 percent population in India works in agriculture and allied activities. Central Statistics Office also states that 13.7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2012-13 is contributed by the Agriculture and allied sectors. This makes the entire agricultural sector of grave importance.

India is unparalleled in its biodiversity too. The 2010 FAO world agriculture statistics reveals that India is the largest producer of many fresh fruits and vegetables, major spices and several millets and the second largest producer of major staple food rice and wheat. In view of this, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources at Institute for Social and Economic Change initiated a study, to understand the extent of biodiversity still in existence in a few select study regions while simultaneously understanding the loss of agrobiodiversity if any due to multitude of factors. The study, which started in November 2014, has now completed more than a year. During the period, we have researched on different aspects of agrobiodiversity, loss of varieties, and the intention behind the change in cropping patterns by farmers. We have also tried

to understand how these changes will impact the local resources of the region. As a further step, we felt a need to communicate our research findings to the local people and have hence formulated the workshop

Objective:

The prime objective of the workshop is

- To understand the factors influencing agro-biodiversity conservation
- To study the ecological and socio-economic importance of agro-biodiversity conservation
- To understand the role of agro-biodiversity in achieving the local food security
- To understand the impact of land use change on ecosystem services
- To understand how agro-biodiversity conservation would help in achieving the land use and socio-economic sustainability

Participants

The workshop will include presentation by the eminent experts/researchers on the theme.

Students, Researchers & Faculty members those who want to participate in the workshop are requested to send workshop details on or before **22th March, 2017** through email to: workshopeco37@gmail.com.

1. Name 2. Designation 3. Organisation 4. Address 5. Contact details 6. Why do you attend the workshop 7. How is Agro-biodiversity conservation related to your work 8. What are your expectations from the workshop.

Participants need to arrange their own accommodation and travel.

Workshop Sub-themes

The workshop will include the following sub-themes

- Various phases of Agriculture in India over the years and the impact of these changes
- Excessive growth of high yield crops or cash crops which have thereby resulted in reduction in growth of traditionally grown crops and their impacts
- Impact of changing cropping pattern on the local resources in the region
- Understanding the difficulties faced by farmers in growing traditional varieties of crops
- Looking at options to ensure traditional varieties are conserved in a manner that is profitable to the farmers too
- Changes in agricultural systems like use of more mechanized equipments which are easier on the farmers but have led to reduction in farm animals like ox and its impact

PATRON

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