



## TELANGANA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

UNEP – GEF – MoEF&CC-ABS Project

On

**"Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions"**

### Introduction

The Telangana State Biodiversity Board under UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC-ABS project organized one day state level workshop on **"Preservation of Agricultural Biodiversity & sustainable livelihoods"** on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at B.M. Birla Science Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, near Birla Mandir, Hyderabad by involving Biodiversity Management Committees, farmers, research institutions/line departments, grass root level NGOs, Agri input industries. More than 100 participants were attended the programme.

The main objectives of the workshop are as follows;

- To understand & appreciate the rich agricultural Biodiversity in Telangana State.
- To create awareness among farmer communities who play a key role as custodians and managers of agricultural biodiversity.
- To share local and traditional knowledge as part of agricultural biodiversity management.
- To create awareness among the line departments to improve strategies on agricultural biodiversity.
- To understand the role of sustainable practices in preserving agri-biodiversity.

Telangana is the 29th state of India, formed on the 2nd of June 2014. The state has an area of 1,14,840 Sq Km and has a population of 3,52,86,757. The Telangana

region was part of the Hyderabad state from Sept 17th 1948 to Nov 1st 1956, until it was merged with Andhra state to form the Andhra Pradesh state.

Telangana accounts for 3.5% of India's total geographical area and 2.9% of population and ranks 12th both in geographical area and population among Indian States. The state is blessed with rich livestock resources, especially cattle and Sheep population accounting to 5.52% of country's population. Rural population in the State is predominantly agricultural with more than 2/3 of its workforce being engaged directly in the agriculture sector. About 29 lakh families in Telangana State are engaged in livestock sector for their livelihoods. The value of livestock produce is estimated to be Rs. 12403 crores at current prices and the livestock sector contributes 4.86% to GSDP (2010-11 Third Revised Estimates).

### **Biodiversity and agriculture are strongly interdependent**

Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture. It has enabled farming systems to evolve ever since agriculture was first developed some 10,000 years ago. Biodiversity is the origin of all species of crops and domesticated livestock and the variety within them. It is also the foundation of ecosystem services essential to sustain agriculture and human well-being. Today's crop and livestock biodiversity are the result of many thousands years of human intervention.

Biodiversity and agriculture are strongly interrelated because while biodiversity is critical for agriculture, agriculture can also contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Maintenance of this biodiversity is essential for the sustainable production of food and other agricultural products and the benefits these provide to humanity, including food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

### **Importance of agricultural biodiversity**

Agricultural biodiversity provides humans with food and raw materials for goods - such as cotton for clothing, wood for shelter and fuel, plants and roots for medicines, and materials for bio-fuels - and with incomes and livelihoods, including those derived from subsistence farming. Agricultural biodiversity also performs ecosystem services such as soil and water conservation, maintenance of soil fertility and biota, and

pollination, all of which are essential to human survival. In addition, genetic diversity of agricultural biodiversity provides species with the ability to adapt to changing environment and evolve, by increasing their tolerance to frost, high temperature, drought and water-logging, as well as their resistance to particular diseases, pests and parasites for example. This is particularly important regarding climate change. The evolution of biodiversity, and therefore both its and our survival, mainly depends on this genetic diversity.

The importance of agricultural biodiversity encompasses socio-cultural, economic and environmental elements. All domesticated crops and animals result from human management of biodiversity, which is constantly responding to new challenges to maintain and increase productivity under constantly varying conditions.

### **Enactment of Biological Diversity Act 2002**

The National **Biological Diversity Act 2002** provides for-conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

### **Minutes of the meeting**

Initially Mr. G. Sailu, State Project Coordinator, UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC-ABS Project, TSBDB briefed about the project objectives and shared his experiences on

Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism and shown various models, case studies about preservation of landraces (millets by tribal people) by the local people & Biodiversity Management Committees in Telangana State.

Then the Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS, Member Secretary, Telangana State Biodiversity Board explained about the importance of Agriculture Biodiversity and to preserve the landraces and briefed about provision of the Biological Diversity, 2002. Also mentioned that the Biodiversity Management Committee, Jheri (Modi), Kerameri (Mandal), Adilabad (District) have been developed seed banks by collecting local landraces for popularizing indigenous varieties. The Pigeon pea Farmer's Variety (*Erra machcha kandulu*) (*Cajanus cajan*) from Adilabad district submitted to PPVFRA during 2013(REG/ 2013/180) was approved for Registration and a Certificate (Cert No. 65 of 2015) in Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority, India (PPVFRA) in the name of Biodiversity management Committee, Modi (Jheri), Kerameri mandal, Adilabad District, and another variety of Green gram "Balinta Pesallu" is in process of registration. These activities are being taken up in collaboration with National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Regional Station, Hyderabad. There are many such landraces which need to be identified, documented and registered.

Dr. Adam J. Grotzky, Executive Director, United States- India Education Foundation (USIEF) New Delhi, expressed his views on biodiversity conservation. He mentioned the native germplasm need to be preserved for future generations.

Ms. Prathiva, Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) shared WASSAN's experience on Agricultural Biodiversity and the WASSAN entrenches participatory processes through network approach that strengthen Natural Resources Management (NRM) practices to secure livelihoods of deprived communities in drought prone areas. Participatory processes include Capacity building, Institutional development, Networking and Advocacy. Revitalising Rain fed Agriculture Network (RRAN) mission is one such network which aims to reconfigure the *nature, amount and delivery* of public investments for productive and resilient rain fed agriculture.

The **RRA Network** has developed an action research programme to support advocacy with evidence and experience on the ground. A series of experiments, called

'Comprehensive Pilots', are testing the nature and feasibility of support systems that can sustain integrated rainfed agriculture and maintains diversity in agriculture. The themes in the pilot are seeds, soil, water, millets, livestock, fisheries, etc. that WASSAN is implementing in the Mehbubnagar district of Telangana state.

Dr. G. Rajashekar, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) shared his views on improve the quality of life of farming communities by promoting environmentally safe and sustainable methods that would enhance the quality and quantity of crop yields especially in tribal and dry land areas, enhance the participation of farmers, both women and men, in all processes of problem analysis, technology development, evaluation, adoption and extension leading to food security and self reliance among farmers and rural communities, facilitate community access and control over natural resources and to build institutions and coalitions at different levels for strengthening People's Agriculture Movements, which focus on empowerment of marginalized sections like Women, Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities, develop a Sustainable Agriculture Resource Network that promotes sharing of knowledge, material and human resources. To serve as a repository for documenting, collecting, storing, collating and disseminating information/success stories from different sources on sustainable agriculture and Understand the role of agriculture in contributing to climate change and developing sustainable agriculture practices which can help in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The secession was followed by interaction session with the stakeholders all the doubts were well clarified.

The workshop was concluded by vote of thanks by Sri G. Sailu, SPC, UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC-ABS project, Telangana State Biodiversity Board.

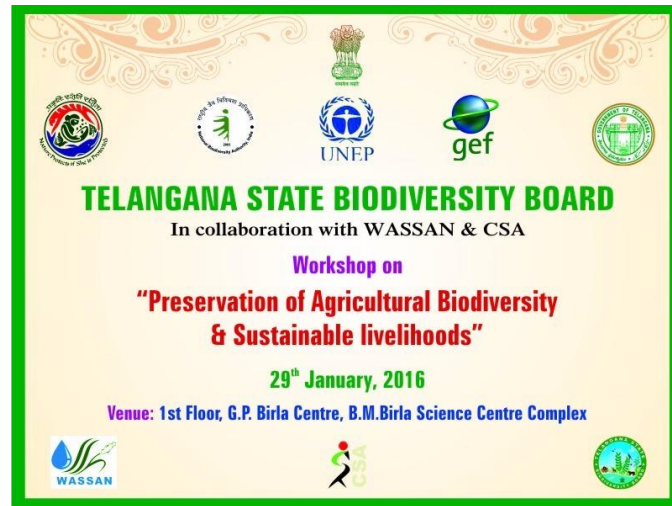
**List of members attended the workshop:**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Address</b>
1.	B. Venkateshwa Rao	Nonber	Repalli
2.	T Prabhakar Rao	Nonber	Repalli
3.	T Chalapathi Rao	Nonber	Repalli
4.	B Laxman	Nonber	Repalli
5.	P Manohar Reddy	Secretary	Nagal Kadumur

6.	Brahemeshwar Rao	Programme officer	Ananthapur
7.	A Rudraiah	Farmer	Ananthapur
8.	E Venkatanarsimha Reddy	Farmer	Ananthapur
9.	S Gopinath	BMC Secretary, Indervelly	Adilabad
10.	A Kusumarao	BMC Secretary, Kerameri	Adilabad
11.	K Chityalu	BMC Member, Surdapur	Adilabad
12.	S K Theyin	BMC Member, Keramari	Adilabad
13.	Dr B Ashok Kumar	Asst Director, Animal Husbandry	Hyderabad
14.	S Ravindrachary	BMC Secretary, Nayakapalem	
15.	B Balu	BMC Member	
16.	S K Yosubu	BMC Member, Modi	Adilabad
17.	M Govinder Rao	BMC Member, Modi	Adilabad
18.	P Buggappa	Farmer	Mahabubnagar
19.	Chennappa	Farmer	Mahabubnagar
20.	Ashappa	Farmer	Mahabubnagar
21.	Narsimhulu	Farmer	Mahabubnagar
22.	Pakirappa	Farmer	Mahabubnagar
23.	P Jalapathi Rao	BMC Chairman, Modi	Adilabad
24.	K Veeresh	BMC Secretary	Mahabubnagar
25.	N Sambha Raju	BMC Member, Nekkondda	Warangal
26.	Adi babu	BMC Uggampally, Maripet	Warangal
27.	D S Ramachender	BMC Uggampally	Warangal
28.	B S Dass	BMC Uggampall	Warangal
29.	S K Dasthgiri	BMC Secretary, Modi	Adilabad
30.	Y Ravindra	Kadiri	Ananthapur
31.	H Yakt Reddy	Kadiri	Ananthapur
32.	V Nageshwar Rao	CAVS	Srikakulam
33.	K Laxmi	CAVS	Srikakulam
34.	S Parvathi	CAVS	Srikakulam
35.	Dr Kamala Venkateshwara	Principal Scientist, NBPGR	Hyderabad
36.	Prativa sundweay	Prog Officer, CSA, Tarnaka	Hyderabad
37.	Dr Rajashekar	Prog Officer, CSA, Tarnaka	Hyderabad
38.	S Ashok		Adilabad
39.	R Presmeshwar Reddy		Adilabad
40.	P Madhav Rao		Adilabad
41.	N Jayashree	BMC Chairperson, Batasingaram	Ranga Reddy
42.	N Rushika nath	Student	Ranga Reddy
43.	Ch Vijay	Farmer	Devarakonda
44.	V Dasharatha	Farmer	Devarakonda
45.	T Yakambram	BMC Member	Nayakpally
46.	K Lakshapathi	Farmer	Devarakonda
47.	S Laxman	Farmer	Devarakonda
48.	A Papi Reddy	Farmer	Devarakonda

49.	P Krishnan	Farmer	Devarakonda
50.	V Sudershan	Farmer	Devarakonda
51.	J Venkatesh	BMC Chairmen, Chinaravipalem	
52.	Dr Y Thirupataiah	Addl Director of Animal Husbandry	Hyderabad
53.	P Bhudevi	CAVS	Srikakulam
54.	S Veerababu	CAVS	Srikakulam
55.	Lacha Goud	BMC Secretary	Mahabubnager
56.	D Bhagavanthu	BMC Secretary	Mahabubnager
57.	Dr A Vijaybahnu Reddy	Asst Professor	O U
58.	P Venugopal Reddy	BMC Secretary, Jaggaiah pally	
59.	P Mamatha	BMC Chairperson, Jaggaiah pally	
60.	M Lingulu	BMC Chairperson, Manakondur	Karimnagar
61.	S Krishna Swamy	BMC Secretary, Manakondur	Karimnagar
62.	D Raju	BMC Member, Chityal	Ranga Reddy
63.	N Suman	BMC Chairperson	Ranga Reddy
64.	M Raju	BMC Member	Ranga Reddy
65.	K Bhagyalaxmi	BMC Chairperson, Erravally	Medak
66.	K Balraj	BMC Secretary, Erravally	Medak
67.	G Venkat Reddy	BMC Member, Erravally	Medak
68.	M Jampaiah	BMC Chairperson, Perkapally	Karimnagar
69.	C Srinivas	BMC Secretary, Perkapally	Karimnagar
70.	P Shankaraiah	BMC Member, Perkapally	Karimnagar
71.	K Mangamma	BMC Chairperson, Turkapally	Ranga Reddy
72.	Lakshmi Anjaiah M	BMC Chairperson, Torrur	Ranga Reddy
73.	Dr Amtul waris	Principal Scientist, IIRR	Hyderabad
74.	Dr V Sunitha	Scientist, PJTSAU	Hyderabad
75.	K Swamy	Research Associate, PJTSAU	Hyderabad
76.	Afzal Begum	Asst Director of Agriculture	Hyderabad
77.	Erra Geethamohan	BMC Member, Honthapur	
78.	B Seetha Ramulu	BMC Chairperson, Daredu	
79.	K Mahender	Lingampally	Hyderabad
80.	R Vasavi	Lingampally	Hyderabad
81.	R Ramesh	Lingampally	Hyderabad
82.	Ch Kiran Kumar	BMC Member, Daredu	
83.	T Thippanna	DBC-Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar
84.	C Bharath Kumar	DBC-Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar
85.	S Ramalingam	BMC Secretary, Devanpally	
86.	K Shekar	BMC Secretary, Palwancha	
87.	G Madhava Reddy	BMC Member, Palwancha	
88.	N Ravinder Goud	BMC Member, Palwancha	
89.	A Durgaiah	BMC Chairperson, Devanpally	
90.	GEF Staff		
91.	TSBDB Staff		

## PHOTO GALLERY











**తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్ర జీవవైవిధ్య మండలి**  
(తెలంగాణ ప్రభుత్వం)

WASSAN & CSA యొక్క అనుబంధంతో

**“సుస్థిర జీవనోపాదుల, వ్యవసాయ వైవిధ్య సంరక్షణ**  
**కార్యక్రమం**

**తేదీ : 29 జనవరి 2016**

**వేదిక: 1 వ అంతస్తు, G.P. బిల్డింగ్ సెంటర్, B.M. బిల్డింగ్ సెంటర్ కాంప్లెక్స్, హైదరాబాద్.**

