



## **Workshop on** **Preservation of Agricultural Biodiversity & Sustainable livelihoods**

Telangana is the 29<sup>th</sup> state of India, formed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Keeping the above in view, TSBDB proposes to organize a workshop on **Preservation of Agricultural Biodiversity & sustainable livelihoods** in collaboration with Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) & Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), Hyderabad on 29-01-2016 at Birla Science Centre, Hyderabad.

### **The objectives:**

- 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.

**Organizers of the workshop:** TSBDB supported by WASSAN & CSA, Hyderabad

**Date and Venue:** 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at B.M. Birla Science Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, near Birla Mandir, Hyderabad. Contact person: Mr. G. Sailu, State Project Coordinator, Telangana State Biodiversity Board-8886696404. Dr. G. Rajashekar, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture -8332945368, Ms. Prathiva, WASSAN-9440901794, 996617202.

**Expected outputs:**

- Knowledge sharing on Agricultural Biodiversity and threatened agricultural species, folk varieties and farmer races
- Contribution to Sustainable livelihoods
- Contribution to Climate change adaptation

**Tentative Schedule:**

<b>Time (hrs)</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Speakers/experts</b>
<b>09:30-10:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
10:00-10:15	Introduction	Mr. G. Sailu, SPC, TSBDB
10:15-10:30	Welcome address	Dr. G. Rajashekar, CSA
10:30-12:00	Sharing of experiences (Seed conservers, pest management, soil fertility management, etc.)	Farmers, NGOs, Industries, line departments
12:00-12:15	Address by	Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS, Member Secretary, TSBDB
12:15-12:45	Address by Chief Guest & interaction with participants	Adam J. Grotsky Executive Director, United States-India Educational Foundation, New Delhi.
<b>12:45-1:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:30-2:00	WASSAN's experience on Agricultural Biodiversity	WASSAN
2:00-2:30	CSA's experience on Agricultural Biodiversity	CSA
2:30-3:00	Visit to Agricultural Biodiversity exhibition	All participants
3:00-3:30	Open forum for discussion	Dr. G. Rajashekar, CSA.
3:30-4:00	Vote of thanks	Sri G. Sailu, SPC, UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC-ABS project