

Proceedings of meeting held with the Members of the Academic Partner Associate (Zoology Department, Holy Cross College) on UNEP-GEF-MoEFABS Project at Holy Cross College on 2ndMarch 2015

Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College, Agartala is providing technical and administrative support and hence formed Academic Partner Associate (APA) of Tripura Biodiversity Board (TBB) during the currency of the UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS Project.

A meeting of TBB and Academic Partner Associate was held on 2nd March 2015, 03.30 pm at the Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. K. Gupta, IFS, PCCF & CWLW, Member Secretary, TBB with the following participants:

- a. Dr. Reba Chakraborty, HOD, Dept. of Zoology
- b. Dr. Dilip Nath, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Zoology
- c. Mr. Pankaj Chakraborty, HOD, Dept. of Pol. Science & Sociology
- d. Mr. Kaushik Dey, B.Sc Zoology, 3rd year
- e. Mr. Sourav Dhar, B.Sc Zoology, 3rd year
- f. Ms. Abhinandita Gupta, B.Sc Zoology, 2nd year
- g. Ms. Baishali Debbarma, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
- h. Mr. Tamal Saha, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
- i. Mr. Sourav Bhowmik, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
- j. Ms. Samhita Ray, SPC, State Project Unit, TBB
- k. Mr. Biprajit Roy, ADPA, TBB

Proceedings:

1. The first agenda of the meeting was to formalize the composition of the APA with inclusion of the students besides presence of three faculty (Dr. Reba Chakraborty, Dr. Dilip Nath and Mr. Pankaj Chakraborty). On recommendation of Dr. Reba Chakraborty, the following students have been made a part of the APA:
 - a. Mr. Kaushik Dey, B.Sc Zoology, 3rd year
 - b. Mr. Sourav Dhar, B.Sc Zoology, 3rd year
 - c. Ms. Abhinandita Gupta, B.Sc Zoology, 2nd year
 - d. Ms. Baishali Debbarma, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
 - e. Mr. Tamal Saha, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
 - f. Mr. Sourav Bhowmik, B.Sc Zoology, 1st year
2. This followed brief welcome address by Dr. A. K. Gupta, MS, TBB highlighting the salient features of the Project where it has been mentioned that such an opportunity may help the students equip

themselves with knowledge at this budding stage of their career which would make them rich at a later stage.

2. This was followed by a brief of the Project by Ms. Samhita Ray, SPC, SPU, UNEP-GEF-MoEFABS Project, which later continued with a power point presentation on Access and Benefit Sharing.
3. Detailed discussions were held on various aspects of the ABS project.
4. The students have been apprised of the provisions of Biodiversity Management Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers and their role and importance in the entire process of ABS. The students were specially apprised of the selection of 6 villages, 2 each from three ecosystems, namely, Forest, Agriculture, and Wetland as per the provisions of the Project. These 6 villages, namely, Telkjala, Bordowal, DwarkamuraSinghpara, South Taibandal, Chandanmura, and Kentali, are chosen for facilitating ABS negotiation as the ultimate objective of the Project.
5. The students have also been apprised of the issue of documentation of tradable bio-resources from these six villages for which an agency has already been selected for undertaking this task within one month.
6. The students have also been apprised of the launching of the Project on 13th of March 2015 where their cooperation as Academic Partner Associate for providing support is required. Ms. Abhinandita Gupta, 2nd year B.SC Zoology student was selected for compering the Project Launch and Discussion Meet. It has been decided to hold a meeting with the students at TBB for sort of full dress rehearsal for better management of launching event.
7. The students posed questions regarding their role in this project. The MS TBB replied to this mentioning that capacity building and empowering the villagers would be the major responsibility and hence being the academic partner associate of the TBB the students should provide support to the SPU team in reaching the goal.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Dilip Nath, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Zoology proposed vote of thanks, followed by special thanks from Dr. Reba Chakrabarty, HOD, Deptt. of Zoology.

Pictorial Documentation

