



**MESSAGE**

**International Day for Biological Diversity, 2021**

Biodiversity constitutes variety of life forms which include plants, animals and micro-organisms. This even includes their genes and the ecosystems of which they are a part. Tripura is one of the few states of the country which is blessed with 70 % of the geographical area covered with forest & biodiversity. This biodiversity has taken million of years to develop. It is our responsibility to gift the future generation a green Tripura by wise use of the biodiversity.

Majority of the common people are still not aware of many empirical evidences at the global, national and local levels on the contributions of biodiversity to human wellbeing, livelihood security and poverty reduction. In Tripura, more than 80% population reside in rural setting surrounded by varied biodiversity elements. Food security assurance to all and sundry is one of the biggest contributions of the biodiversity. The loss to biodiversity will lead to the long-term or permanent qualitative or quantitative reduction in their potential to provide goods and services at national, state, district, block, village, household, and finally at individual levels.

With the mandate to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity & its components, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and knowledge, the Tripura Biodiversity Board (TBB) has taken biodiversity conservation movement at the ground level by constituting Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at village level, block level, and also at Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Councils, etc. as well (1178 nos at village level, 58 nos at block level, 20 nos MC/ NP level and 8 at district level). In a true sense, the BMC is one of the strongest legal entities fully empowered to link biodiversity conservation with economic benefits of the people of the given village.

Biodiversity Management Committees at different levels requires to be supported to ensure protection of rights including intellectual property rights over biological resources and associated knowledge including the protection of the information recorded in People's Biodiversity Registers by hand-holding BMCs for strengthening the in-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity. In Tripura all the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are constituted and the Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are also documented.

Every year Tripura Biodiversity Board (TBB) observes the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The day is observed involving various Schools/ Colleges/ BMCs, District Forest Officers/ Sub-Divisional Forest Officers & Wildlife Sanctuaries etc. and other stakeholders to create awareness on biodiversity conservation among the masses in befitting manner. The theme for this year's IDB is *"We are the part of solution #For Nature"*. Like previous year this year also TBB will commemorate the IDB, 2021 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May through digital platform on account of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation for creating awareness among the people on the importance of conserving our precious biodiversity.

The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, "Our solutions are in nature", which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better. As the world continues to grapple with the pandemic, Biodiversity Day 2021 will once again be celebrated virtually.

Therefore, on the eve of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2021 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, I appeal for proactive participation of every citizen of the State in increasing and protection of our precious biodiversity.

**"Biodiversity is our treasure; all the solutions to our needs are in the Nature"**  
**"Stay home, stay safe"**



**(MEVAR KUMAR JAMATIA)**  
**Minister**