International Day for Biological Diversity, 2020

Biodiversity is the variety of life: different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are a part. We are blessed with more than 70% of the geographical area of the State covered under forests with diverse biodiversity. It is our responsibility to gift the future generation a green Tripura by wise use of the biodiversity which not only provides oxygen, water, food and fodder but also the livelihoods to millions.

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. The contribution of biodiversity to human livelihood is immense - biodiversity based livelihood options form the basis of rural survival in many parts of the world. And in Tripura, where 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. However, is not being a part of the GDP listing, these contributions are not credited and recognized, but otherwise are taken (procured, used and consumed) for granted. Therefore, it is high time that all of us truly appreciate our dependency on biodiversity and own it not only for consumption alone, but also for nurturing and conserving to prevent biodiversity loss. The loss to biodiversity will lead to the long-term or permanent qualitative or quantitative reduction in its components and their potential to provide goods and services at global, regional, national, state, district, block, village, household, and finally at individual levels.

Every year Tripura Biodiversity Board (TBB) observed the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22nd May. TBB observed the day involving various Schools/ Colleges/ BMCs, District Forest Officers/ Sub-Divisional Forest Officers & Wildlife Sanctuaries etc. and other stakeholders to create awareness on biodiversity conservation. This year TBB commemorate the IDB, 2020 on 22nd May through digital platform on account of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation and create awareness among the people on the importance of conserving our precious biodiversity.

As the global community is called to re-examine its relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. The 2020 theme, "Our solutions are in nature" emphasizes hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. Build back better, 2020 is a year of reflection, opportunity and solutions. It is the year where, more than ever, the world can signal a strong will for a global framework that will "bend the curve" on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth.

Therefore, on the eve of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2020 on 22nd 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)