

**Launching of UNEP-GEF-MOEFCC Project
Strengthening the implementation of Biological Diversity Act and Rules
with Focus on Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) provision in Tripura**

Tripura Biodiversity Board, Agartala and National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai have jointly launched UNEP-GEF Project on “Strengthening the implementation of Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions” on Friday, the 13th March, 2015 at Pragna Bhavan, Gurkhabasti, Agartala. Approximately 350 participants including 12 BMCs from Dhalai & Sepahijala District, members of Legal Advisory Group, Expert Committee & Non-official members, Govt. & non-Govt. officials, university, colleges, industries, and media (Print & Electronic) and other NGOs were present in the inauguration session.

Dr. V.K.Bahuguna, IFS, Principal Secretary, Forests, Agri/Horti and Animal Resource Department was present as the Guest of Honour.

The Project launch started with lighting of lamp by the Guest of Honour, Shri S. Talukdar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF, Tripura and other dignitaries.



The Member Secretary, TBB, Dr. A.K.Gupta has welcomed the members and Special Guests and all other invitees.

Dr. Prakash Nellyat, Project Associate, UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS programme has focussed on the issues concerning economic (true) valuation of bio-resources.

Dr. Ishwar C Poojar, National Project Manager, UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS programme shared the national and international perspective on Biodiversity Conservation and Regulation of Biological Resources.

The following documents were released during the inauguration session:

1. People’s Biodiversity Register
2. Local Biodiversity Fund Booklet
3. ABS Brouchures & Factsheets
4. TBB Newsletter Vol. 8
5. Posters

Shri S. Talukdar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF asked the State Biodiversity Boards



to come together join hands to find out the bio resources and how these are used He has also proposed to patent the indigenous techniques used by the villagers to minimize biopiracy.

The inauguration session ended with a vote of thanks by Samhita Ray, the State Project Coordinator of State Project Unit.

At the end of the inauguration session, there was Technical Session I – “Overview of UNEP-GEF Project & Role of Media.” The session was chaired by Dr. A.K.Gupta, Shri Ishwar C. Poojar, Dr. Prakash Nellyyat, Dr. B.K. Kilkdar, Shri J.S.Pathan & Dr. Rupam Mandal. The gathering was addressed by Dr. Ishwar C Poojar. His presentation in the technical session further elaborated the concept of Access and Benefit sharing provisions and the role of media in creating awareness about this programme.

Technical session II – “Economic valuation, interaction with BMCs & private sectors” was chaired by Dr. A.K.Gupta, Shri Ishwar C. Poojar, Dr. Prakash Nellyyat, Dr. Rupam Mandal, Shri Nalinikanta Chakraborty, Shri Achintya Sinha & Shri Khuswant Singh. Thereafter, Dr. Prakash Nellyyat made a presentation elaborating the economic valuation methodologies and various case studies.

This was followed by Technical session III, an interactive session with the BMCs and other participants present there. In this session Shri Achintya Kumar Sinha presented a paper on “Langi”, a magnificent herbal rice beer of Tripura. This was followed by an extempore speech by Dr. Rupam Mandal who shared his experiences working with the UNEP-GEF Project in WestBengal. Mars Socio Welfare Society, Kanchanpur, has shared with the audience their achievements made so far. Shri Rajesh Roy from Dhalai gave a presentation on traditional methods of treatment for different diseases. BMC members have also shared their views regarding different bio resources and their traditional uses.

The program ended with a narration on future road map from the Member Secretary, Tripura Biodiversity Board who also mentioned that successful execution of the project shall add a new chapter in the conservation ethos where local “Owners” of resources who are the poorest will get their due monetary and non-monetary share from the rich commercial “Users” which in turn will lead to the poverty alleviation of the state.

