

2nd National Workshop on Conservation and Utilization of Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources (CUAPGR)

22-23 May 2017 (8-9 Jestha 2074)
Dhulikhel, Nepal

Agro-biodiversity for securing our lives



Background

Agriculture research has contributed significantly for generating information, securing food and advancing crop and animal husbandry. Agricultural plant genetic resources (APGRs) are the core part of agriculture and agrobiodiversity and they are critical for continuing production and minimizing the risks of food and nutrition insecurity. Importance of agrobiodiversity is well known, however, genetic erosion is rapidly expanding to locations and crop species. A large number of wild relatives of important food crops are also likely to disappear over the next decades due to climate change and *ad hoc* commercialization. Realizing the importance of APGRs as national property, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992) has been evolved for better managing and utilizing APGRs. This policy has provided sovereign rights to each country to manage, use and control the APGRs under its territory. This has resulted in the restriction on germplasm exchange and flows. Later it is realized the necessity of free exchange of germplasm for global food security. Therefore International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA 2001) has been in action for strengthening national food security, reducing poverty and addressing biotic and abiotic stresses.

The Biodiversity Profiles Project (1995) ranked Nepal as having the tenth richest flowering plant diversity in Asia and 31st on a world scale. Three agro-ecological zones of Nepal (Tarai, Mid Hill and High Hill) experience a wide range of climate from sub tropical to temperate and alpine cold semi desert, resulting in the evolution and maintenance of diverse crop gene pools. The availability of crop gene pool is a fundamental requirement for achieving further productivity increase and higher nutritional values through plant breeding. For this, it is crucial to conserve and use the existing crop diversity and to allow agricultural researchers, breeders and farmers for easy access to it.

Collective efforts are necessary to conserve and utilize APGRs more effectively and efficiently. The state of the art of agro-biodiversity needs to be developed and scientific system of APGRs handling needs to be established. Farmers and agriculturists should know the APGRs conservation systems and facilitate the conservation works. With the objectives of strengthening, encouraging and establishing APGRs management system in Nepal, 1st national workshop was

organized on 28 Nov-1 Dec 1994 in Kathmandu. Over all status of APGRs has been documented in the proceedings of this first national workshop. After a long gap, 2nd national workshop in this area is planned with the following objectives.

Objectives

- Update and share on conservation and use of APGRs, status of diversity and policy on APGRs in Nepal
- Prepare list of i. Existing APGRs including cultivated, wild relatives and wild edible plants, ii. Lost APGRs, iii. Agrobiodiversity rich farmers (custodian farmers) and hotspots of agrobiodiversity, iv. Rare, endangered and unique APGRs, v. APGRs originated in the regions, vi. Organizations involved in the APGRs conservation
- Enhance the capacity of agriculturists on management, conservation and utilization of APGRs
- Establish linkage among diverse sectors and stakeholders for the management of APGRs
- Accelerate the conservation and utilization of APGRs
- Sharing and collecting feedbacks on ITPGRFA-MLS Implementation Strategy and Action Plan (IMISAP)

Themes

- Agro-biodiversity conservation
- Agro-biodiversity utilization
- Relevant national and international policy
- Agro-biodiversity and biotic, abiotic stresses



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Program Outlines

Opening session: Rationale and objectives of CUAPGR

Key note speakers

Chief Guest: Hon. Minister/Hon. State Minister, MoAD, Kathmandu
Secretary/ Joint Secretary, MoAD, Kathmandu

ED, NARC, Kathmandu

DG, DoA, Lalitpur

ED, LIBIRD, Pokhara

Country representative, Bioversity International, Nepal

Technical session: Invited papers

1. Agro-biodiversity conservation options and status
2. Use of Biotech, GIS, CAT for management of agro-biodiversity
3. Introduced agricultural plant genetic resources (APGRs)
4. Nepalese APGR outside the country
5. Agro-biodiversity rich farmers and hot spot for agro-biodiversity
6. Community/ public orchards in Nepal
7. Government farms and Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources
8. NARC research stations and APGR
9. National and international policy and incentive mechanism
10. Agro-biodiversity index and genetic erosion
11. Landraces as geographical indicators
12. Utilization (breeding, nutrition, production, etc)
13. Education on agro-biodiversity
14. Good practices on conservation and utilization in India and China, R&D partnership and future agenda
15. Status papers on 1. Cereals and Pseudocereals, 2. Millets, 3. Grain Legumes, 4. Oilseed Crops, 5. Vegetables (Leafy, Fruit, Legume), 6. Root and Tuber Vegetables, 7. Tropical and Sub-tropical Fruits, 8. Temperate Fruits, 9. Spices, 10. Sugar, Beverages and Fibers, 11. Forages (Grass, Tree and Legume), 12. Crop Wild Relatives, 13. Wild Edible Plants

Poster session: Bee flora, Pesticidal plant, Green manuring plant, Invasive plant, Host plant species

Group discussion, plenary and closing session

Important Dates

- **Abstract submission:** 10 May 2017
- **Full paper submission:** 20 May 2017
- **PowerPoint submission:** During registration
- **Revised paper submission:** 31 May 2017
- **Registration:** 22 May morning 2017

For details

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Indicators of plant biodiversity (diversity indices) in Nepal

