

*A Preliminary Report on IBD-2015*

*National Conference on "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development"*

organized by U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015



22 MAY 2015  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



*Chief Guest Padmashri Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Dr Rupak De, Sri Sunil Pandey, Smt Pratibha Singh, and Sri A J T Johnsingh, on the Dias*

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD-2015) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2015 at Pluto Hall, Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. On this occasion, a National Conference on "*Biodiversity for Sustainable Development*" was organized in which more than 350 delegates including various research organizations/institutes, universities, officers from U.P. Forest Department and other states as well as NGOs etc participated actively.

The programme started with **Dr. Rupak De**, PCCF, U.P. welcoming the



*Dr. Rupak De*

guests. He said that Uttar Pradesh, is the fifth largest state in India in terms of area and is the most densely populated state supporting a huge cattle population. The huge cattle and human population presents immense challenges to Biodiversity

management.

**Shri Sunil Pandey**, Secretary (Forests), U.P. spoke on the challenges for



*Sunil Pandey*

biodiversity managers and developers of economy. He said a sustainable way out was needed as conservation of biodiversity is important for our own existence. He highlighted the diversity found in U.P. Jaunpuri mooli, Kalanamak rice,

Jamunapari goat etc. He said that, 'Development ' and 'Environment' are seen today as two tends of a spectrum, where one must be compromised in order to enhance the other. This needs to change soon, while human beings dominate this planet, we still need to preserve the diversity.



*Pratibha Singh*

**Pratibha Singh**, Secretary, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow gave a start to the program and presented the history of sustainable development. She traced the history of these conferences from Stockholm (1972), Nairobi (1982), Rio

(1992), Johannesburg (2002), Rio+20 (2012). She spoke on the 8 millennium development goals set in 2000, to be achieved by 2015 and also on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals agreed upon in the 2012 meet. She spoke on

the increasing Co<sub>2</sub> emissions and global warming adding that on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 it was 403.83 ppm. She spoke on the importance of biodiversity and the current threats. She also briefly covered the issues of bioprospecting, IPR's and biopiracy. The fast increasing world population from the present 7 billion to the projected 9 billion in 2050 is the biggest challenge.

The chief-guest on the occasion ***Padmashri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai***, Director, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad said that we need to move from just "*Greening*" to "*Greening with Biodiversity*". He suggested that more



*Padmashri Kartikeya V Sarabhai*

"*Biodiversity Buses*" need to run in Uttar Pradesh to take the awareness of Biodiversity to school children. He elaborated on CEE's efforts in planting trees, education and community participation through different projects like Sanjeevni, Paryavaran Mitra, Science Express Biodiversity Special; He explained the concept of "handprint" and how it was different from 'footprint'. He said that if each school child in Uttar Pradesh was given a two night exposure visit to a natural forest in a structured nature camp – it would be an unforgettable experience for the child with nature. He also suggested the opening to "green haat" in Lucknow to market goods made by people dependent on forests. He concluded by saying that we need to increase our handprint and decrease our footprint.



*AJT Johnsingh*

***Shri AJT Johnsingh*** spoke on Biodiversity conservation in human dominated landscapes. He said that landscapes, based on their inherent characteristics, differ in their capability to support and if the human population level

goes beyond a certain density it negatively effects biodiversity. He emphasised on the importance of Wildlife corridors in landscapes. He spoke on the problem of invasive alien species like mouth breeding tilapia and carnivorous cat fish, Lantana, Opuntia, Ipomea, Parthenium. He touched on the importance of climate change and planting native tree species. He said that poaching and wild harvesting was still on affecting species like *Amur falcons* and *Rauvolfia serpentina*. He concluded by saying that with meticulous planning, implementation, monitoring and management several plant and animal species can be and should be restored. Lasting conservation efforts in human modified landscapes demand new alliances among foresters, conservation biologists, farmers, local people, social scientists and rural social movements. He said that loss of habitat is a major reason for loss of biodiversity. He expressed surprise that not a single worthwhile wildlife corridor has been established in India so far. He also said that more animals were dying in road accidents daily, that being killed by poachers.

**Shri N.B. Brindavanam**, from Dabur Research and Development Center India said that industrialisation, instutionalisation and internationalisation are causing impacts on biodiversity. He also said that ayurvedic medicinal plants are an important sub-set of biological diversity. Over 960 species are in trade currently of these 178 species have high volume consumption. He said that at times collections of these plants is destructive to their survival hence a integrated model was suggested which includes (a) resource augmentation through farming value chain interventions and development of substitutes. For herbaceous species domestication and cultivation was the simplest tool to achieve self sufficiency by end users. In a few cases where use of tree bark/root



*N B Brindavanam*

barks and heart wood was required, efforts need to focus on identification of sustainable plant parts. Dabur is already doing this in some states like Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Odhisah, Karnataka and Haryana with the support of National Medicinal Plants Board.



*Arvinder Singh*

*Shri Arvinder Singh*, Conservator, Patna said that by agroforestry practices the Bihar Government hopes to increase the forest cover from 6-7% to 12% (2012-17). Strategy has been developed to plant 6.0 cr. plants of which 60% will be Poplar and 40% will be others (Teak, Kadamb, Semal, Shisham, Eucalyptus and Mahogany). For this kisan nurseries have been started. Poplar cuttings given to farmers along with training. All plants are bought back from the farmer at @ 14.53% plant (Poplar) and other species are bought back at Rs. 6.10% plant.

He said each beneficiary had to be touched upon at least 3-4 times, so much staff is also needed. The forest department has raised over 1818 nurseries outside the forest department and over 10,000 such farmers were tied with the forest department for raising nurseries on private land. He said that the forest department should have a good extension program like the agriculture department.

*Shri Rajendra Mohan Dobriyal*, Senior Manager, Hindustan Unilever Ltd. started by saying that after the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 obviously it cannot be business as usual. Eco-system in balance is a pre-requisite for



*Rajendra Mohan Dobriyal*

business. Innovation and technology development in crucial for sustainable development and business cannot succeed if societies fail. He spoke about the

'SAI Platform' (Sustainable agriculture initiative) founded by food companies like Unilever, Danone and Nestle. He also spoke on the Unilever sustainable living plan (USLP). This aims to (1) halve the environmental footprint of all unilever's products (2) source 100% of agricultural raw materials sustainably (3) help one billion people to improve their health and well being.

**Dr. Rajat Bhargav**, Ornithologist, BNHS in his presentation gave an account of the objectives of his study carried out on Avifaunal biodiversity of Soheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh. He spoke on the birds of Sohelwa its tourism potential involving to local communities



*Dr. Rajat Bhargav*

The Soheldev Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as IBA (Important bird area) in 2004. Yet no scientific published checklist existed till this study. In the current study from Nov. 2013 to 2014, over 280 species of birds have been recorded of which 26 are threatened species. Amur falcons were also recorded for the first time in the area. In the winter months over 200 individuals of five species of vultures were also recorded. About 500 species of birds are recorded from Uttar Pradesh, Soheldev has 60% of these and 25% of bird species found in India (approx 1200). 42 threatened species of birds are found in UP of which 26 species (61%) are found in Soheldev, making it a "First Class" birding destination!

Throwing the light on the key facts of biodiversity, **Dr. Ram Bhooj**



*Dr Ram Bhooj Yadav*

**Yadav** from UNESCO said that conservation of Biodiversity is one of the most pressing challenges on the international agenda today. He started by reminding the audience about the World

Day for cultural diversity on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 saying that understanding cultural diversity is important to save biodiversity. He spoke on the importance of food biodiversity for nutritional security of India. He gave examples of rice varieties grown only in specific eco-systems like on also culinary methods are equally rich and diverse. He said that climate change is the single most important factor for the accelerated loss of biodiversity. A warming of 3-4<sup>0</sup>C will eliminate 80% of wetlands and biodiversity therein this will cause extinction of 15-37% species by 2050 including 25% major crop varieties. He also spoke on the MAB (Man and Biosphere Program) and World Heritage Sites. Six world natural heritage sites exist in India. (Kajiranga/Keoladeo/Manas/Nanda devi/Sunderbans/Western Ghats). Also shown on the occasion was a film by UNESCO.

***Shri Vijay Vardhan***, Manager Operations from ITC spoke of ITC's agri-business sourcing and the crops their business products depended upon like potato, wheat, milk, eucalyptus, subabool, casuarina, bamboo, soya, coffee, maize, tobacco etc. He also spoke on ITC's paper business which is a wood based industry and how ITC took an initiative two decades back to promote pulpwood production by plantations on private lands, with emphasis on wastelands. It invested on R& D, developed better clones and varieties, promoting tree based training, so that food security was not compromised. By this they have taken pressure off from the forests and have improved form productivity and profitability.



*Vijay Vardhan*



*Dr Shailendra Rajan*

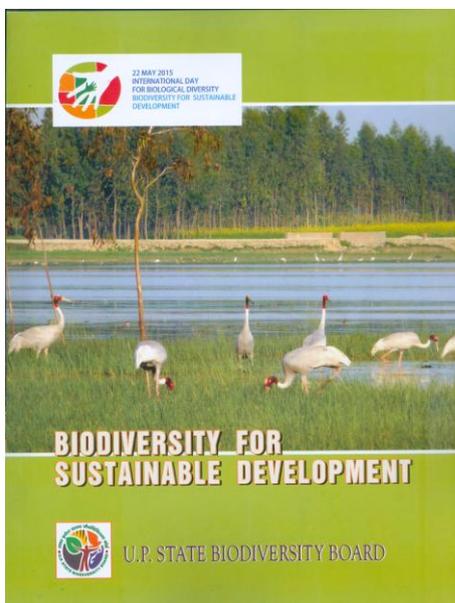
***Dr. Shailendra Rajan***, Director, Indian Institute of Horticulture, Lucknow spoke on the need for community initiatives for conserving invaluable mango diversity of

Malihabad, He emphasized that if farmers are not encouraged to protect local species of mangoes than commercial species will take over and the famous Langra/ Chausa/Dasheri will be lost to us. He gave a presentation on how farmers had been empowered, given training and now even earn by protecting local species of mangoes. Considering the importance of on-farm conservation, Society for Conservation of Mango Diversity (SCMD), a community base organisation, came into existence with the initiatives of community members to conserve and promote lesser known varieties of mango. He further added, SCMD has helped imparting trainings for development of mango catalogue and successful organisation of Mango Diversity fairs. His main message was to consolidate the role of farmer to conserve, innovate and promote mangoes.

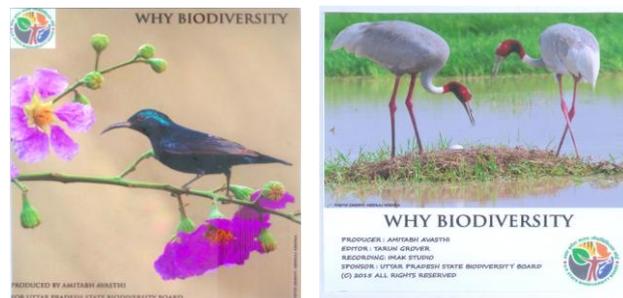


*Release of Souvenir on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development*

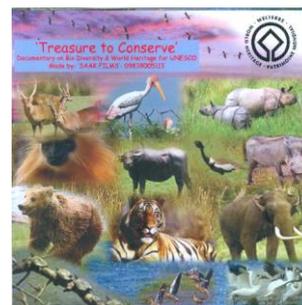
On this occasion, a Souvenir on “*Biodiversity for sustainable Development*” was also released with *32 articles* related to the theme in *222 pages*. A 10 minutes film on biodiversity was also screened. The conference ended by vote of thanks given by Pratibha Singh, Secretary, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow.



*Cover page of the Souvenir*



*A film on Biodiversity by U P State Biodiversity Board*



*A film on Treasure to Conserve by UNESCO*

## GLIMPSES OF SOME VIEWS ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY-2015



Lightening of Lamp by the Dignitaries at Dias



Glimpse of Exhibition Gallery



View of Audience



View of Audience



Rangoli at IBD Celebration-2015



A General View of Audience and Dias