

Proceedings of the interaction meeting of project partners held at NBPGR Regional Station, Hyderabad on 22.2.2012 under the NAIP Sub-project “Harmonizing Biodiversity Conservation and Agricultural Intensification through Integration of Plant, Animal and Fish Genetic resources for Livelihood Security in Fragile Ecosystems”

An interaction meeting of the project partners of NAIP Sub-project “Harmonizing Biodiversity Conservation and Agricultural Intensification through Integration of Plant, Animal and Fish Genetic resources for Livelihood Security in Fragile Ecosystems” was organized at NBPGR Regional Station, Hyderabad to review the project progress and developing the future workplan for 2012-13 for Adilabad district. The project partners representing NBPGR Hqs., New Delhi (Drs. I.S. Bisht, CPI and Sushil Pandey, Co-PI), NBPGR Regional Station, Hyderabad (Drs. S.K. Chakrabarty, S. R. Pandravada, N. Shivaraj, N. Sunil, CoPIs), NBAGR (Drs. Anand Jain, CCPI and K.N. Raja, Co-PI); AP State Biodiversity Board, Hyderabad (Drs. S.N. Jaday, CCPI and R. Hampaiah, Chairman), KVK (ANGRAU) Adilabad (Dr. P. Ramesh), officials of line departments (Veterinary and Fishery from Hyderabad and Adilabad) and the project staff of all concerned project partners participated.

The following agenda items were addressed in the meeting:

1. Review of project progress so far, in brief, by respective CCPIs/Co-PIs.
2. Success stories, if any, as real innovations duly quantifying the livelihood security of farmers/local communities.
3. Future programme, i) for remaining project period of 2011-12 and ii) for 2012-13 duly quantified on quarterly basis with success indicators for periodic reporting thereon.
4. Areas that need strengthening with enhanced budget etc.
5. Other items, if any, including the deposition of sustainability fund generated under the project.

The project partners made detailed presentations on their respective components. The good work being carried out under the project at all project intervention sites/village clusters in Adilabad district was duly appreciated. Areas needing attention of all concerned were elaborated and the following action points were identified for follow-up:

Animal component

1. Animal breed characterisation and selecting locally available improved breeds of cattle, goat, poultry for distribution among farming communities for breed improvement need strengthening. The ideal approach would be to select improved strains of locally available breeding bulls or bucks from weekly community-level markets/ animal fairs and made available to farmers at all village clusters.

(Action: APS-BDB; NBAGR)
2. The recent efforts of NBAGR in distributing breeding bucks to local farmers were appreciated. Distribution of cattle bulls (1-2 in each of the four village clusters), additional breeding bucks (8-10/village cluster), and local poultry (about 25 units/village cluster), as committed by the concerned project partners, need to be taken up on

priority. The APS-BDB and NBAGR should pool their resources and work jointly in procurement of elite local breeds and distribution among farmers.

(Action: APS-BDB; NBAGR)

3. Breed characterization work has to be taken up on priority. Local non-descript animal breeds (particularly cattle and goat) need to be investigated in detail for registration, if any. The NBPGR has committed to complete the characterization of goats by June 2012. Characterization of cattle should also be taken up on priority and completed by the end of 2012-13.

(Action: NBAGR)

Fish Component

4. The farming communities associated with various add-value fisheries interventions need to be sensitized and made fully accountable. Once in operation, the intended fisheries interventions at Pembri village in Khanapur block and Kerameri village clusters can definitely create a visible impact. All out focussed efforts are therefore required to put the fisheries related infrastructure into actual operation. The fisheries interventions at other community ponds also need to be streamlined.

(Action: APS-BDB)

5. Impact of fisheries interventions including the potential of indigenous fish fauna for livelihood security of farmers needs to be duly documented.

(Action: APS-BDB; NBFGR)

Plant Component

6. PGR inventorization from leftover areas needs to be completed on priority. Unique landraces/germplasm also needs to be identified based on characterization/evaluation data and processed for registration for value added traits, if any.

(Action: NBPGR RS, Hyderabad)

7. Precise documentation of enhanced area under cultivation of local landraces of sorghum, red gram, scented rice, and other local crops, and production and availability of quality seed of these landraces to local farmers should be ensured. Sufficient seed quantity should be stored at the Common Resource Centres/ Community Seed Banks for use by the farmers.

(Action: KVK, Adilabad)

8. Documentation of distinct landraces selected for add-value interventions needs to be properly systematized and baseline data on their unique features/specific adaptations (including traits that farmers' prefer or traits that markets prefer, if any), area under cultivation, production and productivity, etc. be generated. Efforts for purification of these landraces to formally include them in local seed network and bringing more area under their cultivation are to be made.

(Action: KVK, ANGRAU, Adilabad/ NBPGR RS Hyderabad).

9. The local crop landraces under add-value interventions (red gram, sorghum, greengram, maize, etc.) are to be registered with PPV&FR Authority on behalf of farming communities of Adilabad. Data on DUS traits need to be generated and landraces got

purified for depositing the seed in National Genebank and also for use in DNA Fingerprinting.

(Action: KVK, ANGRAU Adilabad/ NBPGR RS Hyderabad)

10. Popularizing the important intervention, the Farm Pond Technology, was further reiterated. It should, however, be integrated with maintaining local crop resources/ crop cafeteria around the pond; using pond water as life saving irrigation for local low volume high value crops (particularly vegetables like sem, brinjal, leafy vegetables etc.); demonstration plots of pure stands of local crop landraces under add-value intervention, etc. may also be showcased around farm pond. A vermi-compost unit and fish farming can also be integrated with farm-ponds for better impact and popularity.

(Action: KVK, ANGRAU Adilabad/ NBPGR RS Hyderabad)

General issues

11. The efforts of APS-BDB in creation of 12 BMCs at different village clusters in Adilabad district were appreciated. These BMCs in collaboration with the project staff of all concerned project partners should be given the task of completing the PBRs in phased manner spread over the entire next year (2012-13). The NBA format can be easily used to document the information on agrobiodiversity and other socio-economic variables. The documentation facilities developed at Common Resource Centres by KVK, Adilabad should be availed for documenting the PBR data.

(Action: KVK, ANGRAU/APS-BDB/NBPGR RS Hyderabad/NBAGR/NBFGR)

12. A mid-term review of project activities at Adilabad district by a World Bank Expert is scheduled during first week of April 2012. All project related records are to be kept in order for desk review. Further, at least 2-3 project intervention sites (preferably Kerameri, Indervelly and Pembli) should be kept ready for on-site review of project interventions. All out efforts by the concerned project partners to showcase their respective project interventions at these sites in best possible manner are expected.

(Action: KVK, ANGRAU/APS-BDB/NBPGR RS Hyderabad/NBAGR/NBFGR)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants.