

Proceedings of the interaction meeting of project partners held at MPUAT, Udaipur on 8.2.2012 under the NAIP Subproject “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 MPUAT, Udaipur to review the project progress and developing the future workplan for 2012-13 for Udaipur district. The project partners representing NBPGR (Drs. I.S. Bisht, CPI and S.K. Malik, Co-PI), NBAGR (Drs. Anand Jain, CCPI and N.K. Verma, Co-PI) and MPUAT, Udaipur (Drs. S.R. Maloo, Dean & CCPI; S.P. Tailor, Co-PI; Arvind Verma, Co-PI; V.P. Saini, Co-PI, and other project staff), and Seva Mandir (Mr. Shaidendra Tiwari, CCPI) 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 Udaipur district was duly appreciated. Areas requiring due attention of all concerned were elaborated and the following action points were identified for follow-up:

Plant component

1. PGR inventorization for 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, Jodhpur)
2. Precise documentation of enhanced area under cultivation of local landraces of maize, sorghum, red gram, etc., and production and availability of quality seed of these landraces should be made. The availability of quality seed at Community Seed Banks should also be ensured for use by local farmers.
(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur)
3. More vermi-compost units need to be established at all village clusters and sustainability fund generated through sale of the compost among farmers for use in cash crops (ginger, turmeric and others).
(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur)

4. The elite landraces of maize, sorghum, red gram, etc. are to be registered with PPV&FR Authority. The DUS data on selected landraces should be generated and proposals for their registration, on behalf of respective farming communities, need to be processed on priority. A set of these landraces is required to be submitted to National Genebank at NBPGR for long-term storage and DNA Fingerprinting purposes. Further, enough quality seed of these crop landraces at Community Seed Banks for use by other farmers are to be ensured.

(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur; Seva Mandir; NBPGR)

5. Marketing interventions through packaging, processing, organic farming, etc. should be continued and linked with livelihood security of local farmers.

(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur; Seva Mandir)

Animal Component

6. Breed characterization should be taken up on priority. Local non-descript animal breeds (cattle, buffalo and goat) need to be investigated in detail for registration, if any.

(**Action:** NBAGR)

7. Breed improvement through distribution of elite strains of indigenous established breeds and also breed revival through identification of elite strains of locally available breeds (non-descript) should be strengthened. Distribution of elite strains of local goat and poultry for livelihood security of tribal farmers should be taken up on priority. MPUAT, Udaipur and NBAGR should pool their resources and work jointly in procuring and distributing animals to tribal farmers for breed improvement and livelihood security.

(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur; NBAGR)

8. Impact of breed improvement, and animal health, nutrition and housing management should be quantified in terms of livelihood security of farmer participants.

(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur)

Fish component

9. Impact of fisheries interventions including the potential of indigenous ornamental fish species for livelihood security of farmers needs to be documented and duly quantified.

(**Action:** MPUAT, Udaipur)

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