

Proceedings of the interaction meeting of project partners held at CSK-HPKV, Palampur on 26.3.2012 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 (GEF) 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 CSK-HPKV, Palampur on 26.3.2012 to review the project progress and developing the future workplan for 2012-13 for Chamba district. The project partners representing NBPGR Hqs., New Delhi (Drs. I.S. Bisht, CPI and S.K. Malik, Co-PI); NBPGR Regional Station, Shimla (Dr. J.C. Rana, Co-PI); NBAGR, Karnal (Drs. Dr. P. K. Vij and R.A.K. Aggarwal, CoPIs); NBFGR, Lucknow (Drs. V. Mohindra and L.K. Tyagi, Co-PIs); CSK-HPKV, Palampur (Dr. J.K.Sharma, CCPI, and Drs. Alok Kumar Sharma, R. C. Chauhan, T. R. Sharma, Gopal Katna, M.C. Rana, and other CoPIs), and the project staff of 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 for 2012-13 and beyond, duly quantified on quarterly basis with success indicators for periodic reporting thereon.
4. Areas that need strengthening with enhanced budget etc.

An interactive discussion with all concerned project partners on their respective components was held. The good work being carried out under the project at all project intervention sites/village clusters in Chamba 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. As the breed characterization of cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep for Chamba is now complete, a consolidated report/publication needs to be brought out together with findings on uniqueness, usefulness, diversity loss, if any, etc. (Action: NBAGR)

2. The efforts of NBAGR and CSK-HPKV, Palampur in distributing breeding bucks and rams to local farmers were appreciated. Distribution of breeding bucks, rams, cattle/buffalo bulls and local poultry, as also AI interventions need to be strengthened for remaining project period as component of breed improvement. (Action: NBAGR/CSK-HPKV)

Fish Component

3. All out focussed efforts are required to put the fisheries related infrastructure into actual operation. Efforts to be made to develop brood stock for conservation and aquaculture of two important indigenous coldwater species, *Tor putitora* and *Labeo dero*, identified as potential cultivable fish. (Action: NBFGR/CSK-HPKV)

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

(**Action:** NBFGR/CSK-HPKV)

Plant Component

5. 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 unique traits, if any.

(**Action:** NBPGR RS, Shimla)

6. Precise documentation of enhanced area under cultivation of local landraces of red rice, rajmash and maize, and production and availability of quality seed of these landraces to local farmers should be ensured. Sufficient seed quantity should be stored at the Community Seed Banks, if any, for use by the farmers.

(**Action:** CSK-HPKV/NBPGR)

7. 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:** CSK-HPKV/NBPGR RS Shimla).

8. The local crop landraces under add-value interventions (red rice, rajmash and maize) are to be registered with PPV&FR Authority on behalf of farming communities of Chamba district. 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:** CSK-HPKV/NBPGR RS Shimla).

General issues

9. Efforts need be made to sensitize the State Biodiversity Board for creation of BMCs at different village clusters in Chamba district. These BMCs in collaboration with the project staff of all concerned project partners should be given the task of completing the CBR/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.

(**Action:** NBPGR/NBAGR/NBFGR/CSK-HPKV)

10. As the World Bank will have rigorous monitoring now onwards, more focus on strengthening up-scalable technologies/good practices is required from all project partners.

(**Action:** NBPGR/NBAGR/NBFGR/CSK-HPKV)

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