

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

November 2012

Biodiversity



Happy Dasara! Happy Bakrid! Happy Diwali! Happy Children!

Let thousand philosophies prosper for better life now and beyond! Let the science and technology be applied for peace and development! Let us be strong and immunized!

Let us be kind to all! Let us be tolerant! Let us have TV for poor! Let the phones increase the dignity of the poor! Let the Fish diversity grow! Let us eliminate violence in general and against women in particular!

Let AIDS disappear! Let PWDs live with dignity and achieve their true potential! Let the tribe of development and livelihoods volunteers proliferate and contribute!

Rest in Peace, People's leader, Yerran Naidu!

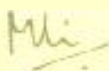
Congrats Aditi, for receiving the Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application for her research on ground water resources in agriculture in West Bengal!

COP11 Hyderabad Declaration commits to biodiversity protocols with marginal progress on resources! COP11 to Convention on Biodiversity has been just concluded in Hyderabad. Biodiversity has been in the air of Hyderabad for 20 days. Human life is a function of all diverse life and non-life around. Conserving biodiversity needs resources and they are expected from the developed nations and they are not forth coming. However, indigenous communities and local populations, with their frugal and simple lifestyles, are protecting the environment and biodiversity. Also, human life itself is varied and diverse in their various dimensions. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'biodiversity'.

Vandana Shiva, an eco-warrior, inspires us with her work on protecting diversity in living resources. 'Chipko' Andolan against deforestation inspires many eco-efforts in the country and outside. 'Kshetram' discusses the livelihoods in Dandakaranya and 'Sukshetram' discusses the NTFP. 'Tool' discusses local 'demand estimation' for products and services. 'Context' presents 'Biodiversity Act, 2002'. 'Origin of Species: a classic, everyone should read. 'How to' supplement discusses 'How to do subsector analysis?'

From this month onwards, we are making efforts to present e-links for a video, book, LEAP and value-chain every month. Soon we also include e-link to a subsector too. Next month, we will present 'induction kit' on livelihoods for anyone who wants get initiated into livelihoods work. In 2013, we will also offer e-livelihoods learning course over 12 months in the e-links.

This is the 61st moon of 'livelihoods'. It signals change and transition. This issue is the first after 'livelihoods' team has gone through shared visioning. The team remembered seven habits – be proactive; begin with end first, do firsts first; seek win-win; articulate; synergize; and sharpen the ways for the first six constantly. With the faith and hope that you liked the template, focus and depth, without losing the space for commons and currents, I remain.



G Muralidhar

the 'livelihoods' team

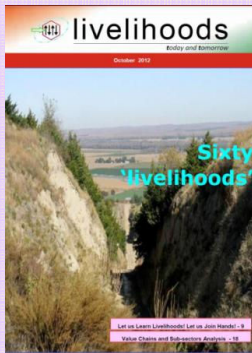
From natural hazards low- and middle-income countries, damage and losses are estimated at \$1.2 trillion in the last 30 years, a third of all official development aid over that period.



Learning of the Month

Existing acts are not sufficient to the producer's organizations in the country.

Response



Dear Sir,

Sixty Salute to Livelihood. Now I can understand the nuances and dynamics of Rural India and its contemporary situation and scenario. The Sixty mile stone of Livelihood is a best way to walk into the Rural Development Diaspora. Hats off to Akshara for its tireless journey for Sixty months.

Santosh Kumar Singh.

Dear sir,

You are doing a fantastic job! Kudos to your entire team.

Harsh

Dear sir,

Excellent material in simple language on value chain. Very good reading Congrats for good demystification of knowledge !!!!!!!!!!!

Madhuri newale

Dear Sir,

I have gone through the interview with Common person which was published in September 2012 Magazine ; it is really good and it should be motivate people. Mr Ashok's case study has inspired me.

Thank you very much for sharing the such case studies.

Peddanna Beedala

Dear Muralidhar and team,

The supplement on Value chain analysis is very useful and relevant to me.

Thanks

Mruthyunjaya Sastry



How to Make Collective Enterprises Sustainable?

How to Provide Insurance to all?

'Nilam' Submerges Paddy in 76,000 Hectares, Andhra Pradesh: The extensive rains that lashed the State in the wake of 'Nilam' left paddy crop in an extent of 76,000 hectares submerged and claimed four lives, said Revenue Minister.

Sixth Phase of Land Distribution Launched, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister officially launched the sixth phase of land distribution in the State at a public meeting held near Puttaparthi in Anantapur district. The Chief Minister who flew to Puttaparthi went straight to the venue where he officially launched the programme, which comprises distribution of 1 lakh acres of surplus government lands amongst 60,000 beneficiaries across the State. The Chief Minister said that the process of distribution of land would start from Sunday and would go on for the next six months. The intention of the government was to ensure all cultivable surplus land be distributed among the landless poor, he added. Stating that all the beneficiaries in this phase were women, he emphasised that the government had taken the step to help enhance the economic independence and self-respect of women.

Grape Research Station Planned at Cost of Rs. 8 Cr, Andhra Pradesh: Advanced Grape Research Station will be established in Uthamapalayam on 25 acres of land at an estimated cost of Rs.8 crore to do research on different varieties of grapes. A vegetable processing centre will be set up in Dindigul and five model horticulture villages will be set up in 40 to 100 hectares in the State, said Minister for Agriculture. He was delivering special address at the valedictory of a national seminar on banana. The government has sanctioned Rs.8 crore for the research station. To begin with, Rs.25 lakh had been sanctioned. This station would do research on various varieties of grapes suitable for export. A total of 6,000 acres in the Cumbum valley are under grape cultivation. Researchers would also guide farmers to boost production and develop high-yielding varieties. ❖

New Mission Under Chandy May Replace Kudumbasree Kerala: The widely acclaimed Kudumbasree Poverty Eradication Mission appears faced with a fatal blow with moves being set in motion by powerful sections within the government to form a new State-level mission chaired by the Chief Minister. The proposal is to float the new mission on the argument that poverty eradication cannot be left to just one department. The Kudumbasree Mission, launched in 1998 to eradicate absolute poverty through empowerment of women, is under the Department of Local Self-Government and pressure has been mounting from the Rural Development Department and sections of the Congress to pare down its mandate. As and when it takes shape, the new mission with the Chief Minister at its helm would become the fulcrum of all poverty eradication programmes in the State. If that happens, the Union government will not be in a position to overlook the new Mission when devolving funds to the State for its poverty eradication initiatives and that would in effect seal the Kudumbasree mission's fate.

Generic Drugs Will be Given Free to Poor: PM, New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that the allocation for the health sector during the 12th Plan had been increased three times over the previous Plan allotment to address complex challenges. The outlay in the 12th Plan had been fixed at Rs. 3-lakh crore, which was 1.95 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. During the last Plan period, the sector had got Rs. 89,265 crore. Free generic drugs would be made available through public hospitals.

Training School Planned for Grassroots Academics Tamil Nadu: The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) will start a training school to provide life-long learning opportunities to grassroots academics to update their knowledge and share it with others, said eminent scientist and MSSRF Emeritus Chairman and Chief Mentor M.S. Swaminathan on Sunday. While conferring the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy (NVA) Fellowship on 119 grassroots academics, he said that starting Jamsetji Tata Training School for leadership in rural knowledge connectivity was an unfinished agenda of MSSRF. Till date, MSSRF had about 1,560 Fellow grassroots academics and it should reach at least 10,000 by end of the decade. ❖



Call for Global Pact on Disaster Risk Reduction Indonesia: Expressing concern over the increasing impact of disasters and climate change in the Asia and the Pacific, high-level delegations from 50 countries of the region have called for drawing up an international agreement on disaster risk reduction to follow on the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). The Hyogo Framework for Action was adopted by 168 member States of the United Nations (U.N.) at the World Disaster Reduction Conference held in Hyogo, Japan, in 2005. It was the first plan to lay out a road map for governments and different sectors to bolster the resilience of nations and communities against disasters and reduce losses. The 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction organised by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in collaboration with the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), ended here on Thursday. Key elements of the Yogyakarta Declaration include calls to integrate local disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development planning; identify accountability measures for effective implementation; political commitment to deliver at all levels; promote awareness, education, public access to information and resilient investments; and allocate resources to build local capacity.

Hurricane Sandy: more than 50 million people prepare for 'Frankenstorm' New York and Washington: More than 50 million people in the most densely populated corridor of the US waited with mounting dread for the full brute force of Hurricane Sandy, as the first gusts of wind and rain sent New York City and Washington into lockdown and forced tens of thousands to leave their homes. ❖

Swamy Vivekananda Youth Association

Maddigatla is a village in Mahabubnagar district. The village youth formed the Swami Vivekananda Youth Association in 2007. The purpose of the Association is to help the needy in the village. Currently, the group consists of 30 members and is headed by R. Narendra. In the beginning, it conducted activities such as village clean-up drives, sanitation drives, etc. but did not receive enough attention. Then, the members decided that registering the group would help in getting more attention.

The Association conducts meetings once in every two months to assess the requirements in the village and plan its activities. So far, the Association has helped construct a water tank in the school, planted 300 saplings in the village, conducted sports events for school children, etc. The Association also conducted a cricket tournament for a few

villages in the area. It has also distributed rice to poor households in the village. Awareness programmes on AIDS, family planning, emergency health care and fire services were also conducted by the Association.

The Association has also won the Best Youth Award given by the District Collector under the Yuvakendra Scheme for three consecutive years in 2007, 2008 and 2009. It used the Rs. 10,000 cash award to conduct its activities in the village. Since 2010, the Association's activities have slowed down. Budvesh, a member and office bearer says that as long as the members were studying, they were able to dedicate time to the Association. They could not find time for the Association once they finished college and started working. However, they plan to hold a meeting soon and hope to revive the Association. ❖

Scheme/ Program

Facility

Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

The Inti Inti Paarishudhyam project of Medak district under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is implemented by the Village Organization (VO, SHG federation) in Velturu village, Medak district. The VO has been implementing the scheme since 17th January 2012. Earlier, it was implemented by the Water and Sanitation department of the state government. The objective of the TSC in the new phase is to provide one lakh households with access to individual latrines in Medak district.

The VO identifies the potential beneficiaries (those without a toilet) in the village through a survey. The survey is conducted with the help of the SHGs in the village. The list of beneficiaries is then approved by the Gram Panchayat. The VO provides a loan of Rs. 2000-2500 to poor households to construct a toilet. The TSC fund is released to the beneficiary only after the construction of the toilet. Besides this, the beneficiary also receives Rs. 1300 from NREGS as labour charges. The National Academy of Construction has trained 1500 SHG members in constructing low-cost latrines. This training is handy when the masons in the village are not available. The SHGs also create awareness regarding proper sanitation and its benefits. In Velturu, 550 households were identified as potential beneficiaries. Of these, 360 households have benefitted from this scheme since January 2012. The VO has given 180 poor households loans. The VO is now encouraging the other households also to construct toilets. The transparency in the current system has increased the faith of the locals and they are now willing to avail the scheme. ❖

Anganwadi Center

There are two Anganwadi Centres in Chatanpally, Mahabubnagar. The centres were established in 1995 to support the nutrition and development of children in the 0-5 age group. The AWC is open from 9:00A.M to 1:30 PM every day. 25 children in the 3-5 years age group attend the Anganwadi daily. The Anganwadi helps the children to learn through engaging them in creative activities such as drawing. Each Anganwadi has a teacher who observes the children for any difficulties in their capacity to learn.

The children are given eggs once a week to children, pregnant women and lactating women. Once in every 15 days, the Anganwadi surveys the number of births in the village and the incidence of child mortality. It also measures the weights of the children and pregnant women.

The Anganwadis categorise the children into different grades – normal grade (healthy children), Grade-I, Grade-II, Grade-III and Grade-IV (children who have nutritional imbalances). At present, there are no severely malnourished children at the Anganwadi Centres in Chatanpally (Grade-I & II). There are 60 normal-grade children, 40 Grade-I children and 35 Grade-II children registered at the Anganwadi.

The Anganwadis observe breastfeeding week in the first week of August every year to create awareness regarding the benefits of breastfeeding and colostrums feeding. They also observe Nutrition Health Education Day on the first Wednesday of every month. On this day, the Anganwadis conduct a meeting which is attended by school teachers, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM), ASHA workers, and mothers. Sometimes ICDS CDPOs, Supervisors, Health Supervisors also participate in the meeting. Issues related to education, health, immunization, nutrition and sanitation are discussed with the mothers at the meeting. ❖

Dandakaranyam

Dandakaranya region spans an area of 92,300 Sq.Km covering 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Odisha. It holds religious significance for Hindus who believe that Lord Rama spent 13 years of exile in the region.

The region witnesses abundant rainfall owing to the prominent and dense forest cover that it hosts. It supports a variety of flora and fauna and is home to some major tribes of India, including the Gonds. Its North-South distance spans about 300 Km while East-West spans about 500 Km. Mahanadi and Godavari are two major rivers. Shabari, a tributary of Godavari causes floods that displaces large population of about 7 million every year.

The region is rich in minerals such as iron, bauxite, tin, granite, marble, limestone and other minerals, alongside timber. The rich mineral base of the region has given rise to the mining mafia. Some non-tribal businessmen thrive on buying NTFP from tribes, storing and selling it after or with out value addition for a higher price. The locals lose out on economic opportunities due to the nexus between these groups and local police.

The locals depend on NTFP as major source of their living. Besides NTFP, they also take up activities like poultry, piggery and cattle rearing largely to meet their requirements. Most of them own small tracts of land but lack oxen to plough their fields.

It is interesting to note that that the barter system still remains the norm in the region. Villages offer their goods and services in return for other goods and services from other villages. Little has been done to improve the irrigation facilities in the region.

Dandakaranya is largely unreached by development machinery like schools and hospitals. Only towns like Jagdalpur, Gadchiroli, Bhadrachalam host hospitals and infrastructure with proper facilities. Efforts to make these facilities available in the villages are often sabotaged by the mining mafia and political interests such as the Maoists. Maoists perceive that roads and railway lines perceived and are also modes of exploiting the locals.

The rapid depletion of mineral resources and increasing police-Maoist encounters are driving locals away. Many are not able to fend for themselves for at least 2 months a year. Added to this is the prevalence of diseases due to un-hygienic conditions that people live in. This has reduced the life expectancy.

Unless these complex issues are addressed by the central government in coordination with the states, Dandakaranya will soon be depleted of its people, resources and its natural flora & fauna. ❖

Non Timber Forest Produce

Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) are commodities available in a forest that do not require harvesting of trees. These products are collected from the forest. Tendu leaves, bamboo, honey, amla etc. are examples of NTFP products. NTFP is used for consumption and also to make handicrafts, tools, utensils, etc.

NTFP is a major source of income for several communities that dwell in or around forests. NTFP dependant families are mostly tribal and this dependence is seen in almost all the states of India in one form or other. It is estimated that about 10% Indians depend on NTFP alone for their food, shelter, medicine and cash income.

Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh account for more than 75 percent of NTFP trade in India. NTFP sector creates a lot of employment along the value chain. Much of the value addition to NTFP products is done outside the local area.

For tribes' dependant on agriculture and allied activities, NTFP serves as a safety net or a fallback option in case rains are deficient.

Deforestation is a serious concern for NTFP-dependent communities. Disappearing forests implies disappearing livelihoods and sustenance.

Also that a larger share of consumer price for a NTFP product goes to the value chain, the ones who collect and sell it get a very minute share of it. Non availability of product knowledge and market information restricts them from earning good returns. In some states, NTFP collection has been regularized. The collectors sell their produce to the forest department. In states like Odisha, 70% of revenue of the forest department is generated through NTFP collection.

Methods of collection and flaws in the same are also resulting in some of the products losing their value by the time they reach market.

Collective efforts have been able to increase revenue for NTFP collectors by ensuring direct access to markets and by knowing product value chain. This has helped them make appropriate changes in the production and marketing methods. These collectives to meet regularly and estimate the produce and determine the share of collection for the year, while retaining ecological factors and reducing over exploitation.

Issues like limiting collection of produce, sale only at Government or registered private players' counters, collective vigil on exploitation by unregistered private players have to be addressed. Market access to collectors and interventions in value addition should be planned and undertaken to improve the income for the tribes who depend on NTFP for their basic needs from life. ❖



Crusading Environment Activist

Dr Vandana Shiva is a name to reckon with in the fields of Intellectual Property Rights and environment conservation.

Shiva is founder, Navadanya which works towards protecting the diversity and integrity of living resources especially natural seeds and promotion of organic farming.

Vandana Shiva was born on 5th November in 1952 at Dehradun. Her parents were great lovers of nature and made efforts to conserve the environment. Their interest in the ecology and its preservation obviously shaped Shiva's thinking in evolving her world reckoned career as philosopher, environmental activist, author and eco-feminist. She was educated at St. Mary's School at Nainital and Convent of Jesus and Mary at Dehradun. After Graduating in Physics she pursued M.A., Philosophy of Science at University of Guelph (Canada) in 1978. She earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy from University of Western Ontario, Canada in 1978. Later, she did research in Science and Technology and Environmental policy at IISc and IIM Bangalore.

In 1991, she set up Navadanya which has grown to a membership of 7000 farmers today. Its efforts have resulted in conservation of 2000 rice varieties and established 34 Seed Banks in 13 states.

She fought for changes in the practice and paradigms of agriculture, food, biodiversity, biotechnology, bioethics, Intellectual Property Rights, and genetic engineering. She

assisted grassroots organizations of the green movement in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Austria and Switzerland against genetic engineering. She challenged genetically modified seeds and crops and fought against MNCs like Monsanto on Bt.Cotton at international level. She challenged biopiracy of Neem, Basmati and Wheat. Shiva also opposes development that plays havoc on the ecosystem and destroys sustainability of agriculture.

Shiva has served as member of Steering Committee of the Indian People's Campaign against WTO, as advisor for International Forum on Globalization, WEDO and Third World Network.

The Time Magazine identified Shiva as an Environmental Hero in 2003. She also founded Bija Vidyapeeth in 2004, an International College for sustainable living in Doon Valley in collaboration with Schumacher College, U.K.

Shiva is also recognized for her thought on eco-feminism which was espoused in her report for FAO "Most farmers in India are women". She founded Women's Empowerment and Development Organization (WEDO). She was awarded by many prestigious Institutions. She was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, Pride of Doon in 1995, Global 500 Award of United Nations Environment Programme in 1993, Earth Day International Award by UN, Save the World Award in 2009, Sydney Peace Prize in 2010. ❖

Legendary Effort

Chipko Movement

Chipko Andolan started in a remote village called Reni in Uttarakhand. The movement soon spread like wildfire across India. Chipko activists followed a non-violent, Gandhian Satyagraha model in fighting against deforestation that affected their livelihoods. The activists would hug trees to prevent Government-appointed contractors from felling the trees.

On March 26, 1974 a group of women in Reni Village in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand successfully prevented the contractors from felling the trees and got their contract cancelled. The women acquired the contract for their collective, Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS). This significant victory emboldened them to spread the movement for the conservation of the forest, and it spread to other areas attracting the attention of the Government and civil society.

By 1980s the Chipko Movement spread to Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar, Vindhyas and Western Ghats and forced the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Govt. to issue a ban on open felling of trees for 15 years. It was also instrumental in formulation of people sensitive forest policies which had stopped open felling of trees as far as Vindhyas and Western Ghats.

The Chipko Movement was spearheaded by Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunderlal Bahuguna. It occurred when there was hardly any environmental movement in the developing world and created a precedent for non-violent movement inspiring many eco-groups.

The Chipko movement stirred civil society and helped in

slowing down deforestation, exposure of vested interests, ecological awareness and viability of people power and thus brought the tribal and Indigenous Peoples' problems to focus. It propagated the starting of small scale Industries basing on the resources of the forest enriching the livelihoods of the locals.

Sunderlal Bahuguna took up a 5,000 kilometers trans-Himalaya foot march in 1981-83 spreading the movement to other areas. Chipko activists in 1980 agitated against the limestone mining in Tehri. After years of consistent agitation, they got the quarrying banned.

Sunderlal Bahuguna also took up twenty years of satyagraha against Tehri Dam across Bhagirathi River and in 1995 took up a 45-day long fast against this dam. In response, the then Prime Minister P.V.Narasimha Rao assured to look into it. When the assurance was not realized again he took up a 74-day long fast at Rajghat. This time, the Supreme Court took up the Tehri Dam issue. Despite his best efforts the Tehri Dam was started in 2004 forcing him to leave the dam site. Sunderlal Bahuguna founded Beej Bachao Andolan-Save the Seeds movement.

The Chipko Movement is an inspiration to many people and continuing efforts for conservation of forests, de alcoholism and is a model for the green movement.

The Chipko Movement was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 1987. Chipko founder Chandi Prasad Bhatt was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1982. Sunderlal Bahuguna was awarded Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India in 2009. ❖

Learn to Know, Do, Be, Co-exist and Beyond!

Happy Humanity! Happy Physical, Mental and Spiritual Health! Save the Girl Child! Plan for Disaster Preparedness! Food and Nutrition for All! Lasting Prosperity for All! Information and Knowledge access to everyone!

COP11 to CBD with 184 countries and 14400 participants in attendance ended!

Arvind Kejriwal goes political and Anna sticks to 'movement'.

Union Cabinet Reshuffled and some new faces inducted! 2014 election conch has been blown! Rahul appears to be in the driver seat! HP voted. Gujarat is getting ready. Padayatrass have begun: Chandrababu is walking; Sharmila is walking. Indian East Coast is hit by 'Neelam'.

Telangana is still seeking endorsement of its free will. Uncertainty looms large.

American Presidential Elections are on, amidst effects of Sandy Super Storm.

Online world is growing and it is changing fast. 2 billion people access internet now, mostly through phones, tablets and laptops. 1 billion people are on facebook. About an hour/day is spent on internet/portal/social media. Print advertising has become small and online advertising and TV advertising are sharing equally about 80% of the advertising. Digital video is growing up. **The future is towards customized online content viewership and downloading.**

Income Tax Payees may be the biggest beneficiaries of coming Direct Taxes Code, effective 1 April 2013. Likely revision is – tax exemption limit – Rs.300,000/year; 10% tax for Rs.300,000 to Rs.1,000,000; 20% for Rs.1.0 – 2.0 million; and 30% for above Rs.3.0 million.

We hear that state is going to ask the family to pay honorarium for domestic work of its members. Is it a way? Is it implementable? The best would be to educate and skill women to have gainful employment outside so that she attains/retains independence/reduced dependence. The best would be to reduce the drudgery in household chores.

As we 'progressed', our ways of sustainable living have given way to power consuming and environmentally unfriendly ways. Earlier, recycling, refilling, walking and using steps, not using throw-away goods, small multi-user radio/TV, manual work in kitchen and elsewhere, using old newspapers, labour-intensive activities, work itself as exercise, local foods and clothes, etc., used to be the ways. Can some of them become part of our ways of living now? Gandhi, we cannot escape when we think of ways of living. The lessons from Gandhi include – look beyond yourself; lead by example; learn to forgive; don't lose faith and be patient; and be the change.

We need education for these ways of living. For the whole person – mind, body and spirit! For the hierarchy of needs (autonomy, bonding and meaning), not just for the lowest needs! To be grounded in reality, no intellectualization and conceptualization for their own sake! For knowing deeply (towards knowledge, understanding and wisdom)! For the grasp of unity in diversity all around! And meditation/yoga is brahmavidya! In essence, it is nai taleem – **learning to know, to do, to be, to co-exist and to go beyond all this.**

A growing India! Does it need foreign aid to its civil society organizations? About 40000 organizations are registered under FCRA and about Rs.10,000 Crore/year comes in as Foreign Contribution through these agencies. This is not

even 1% of Government of India Budget. The contributions come as small contributions. About 30% contributions (largest) from USA. Funds are mostly meant for education and health. Only 15% of these funds are for establishment/administration. Still, Delhi and South India receives majority of the funds. Apart from these, India also gets about Rs.25,000 Crore/year as multi-lateral aid/loans to Government(s) directly. While the amounts are arguably insignificant, they could be coming in for filling the relevant gaps. Thus, they may have catalytic effect on the civic efforts within the country and the state efforts through Union and State Budgets.

It is established, more or less, that we need to invest in the health and nutrition of mother and the child, early childhood care and education, school education, knowledge and skills, collectivization and social security for a responsive responsible sensitive and prosperous next generation. The returns on investment are higher than any other investment. This investment impacts of life skills (cognitive, social, emotional, societal) and concepts, lower dropouts from the education funnel, better employment prospects and reduced crime. This calls for right to education has to be extended to include the entire education chain starting from -0.8 to 18 years. This is a fundamental right of the child, indeed!

While I have reconciled to 70% of India living on less than USD 2/day, some statistics startled me – one in three of the world's malnourished children is in India; India is home to about 25 percent of the

world's hungry poor; India ranks 65th out of 79 countries on the Global Hunger Index. We need to accelerate our efforts to address this situation!

Natural Resources are the key in livelihoods work. Supreme Court's recent observations on auctioning natural resources include – auction cannot be the sole criterion for alienation of natural resources. However, one set of citizens cannot prosper at the cost of another set of citizens, for that would not be fair or reasonable. Economic logic and common/public good may not always be in sync. Potential for abuse cannot be the basis for striking down a method as ultra vires the Constitution for there is no method is completely abuse-proof.

Land to the landless gives them dignity and credibility. Gwalior-Delhi Historic March of 50000+ landless led Government to concede this demand in a time-bound manner. The agreement includes formulation of National Land Reforms Policy, right to land and shelter to all, empowering Gram Sabha to implement PESA, FRA etc., effectively. Hope this becomes a reality soon.

Super 30 fame Anand Kumar of Bihar has shown a good example of a hybrid self-sustaining social enterprise. A mathematics school (Ramanujam School of Mathematics) earns fee from the students and supports the Super 30 – poor bright merit students prepared for admissions into IITs without any cost to the students. 90% of Super 30 have found their way into IITs, over the last ten years. **We should have more Anand Kumars to have more hybrid social enterprises.** We also need fair, efficient and effective service providers to the poor. Of course, we also need collectives of the poor gearing up and providing some or all of these services to their members. It is time we become and nurture more hybrid social and ecological entrepreneurs! ❖

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is highly important for the existence of life on Earth. The conservation of species, land, water, ecosystem and atmosphere is necessary to protect life and livelihoods. Growth at the cost of biodiversity is becoming a serious issue and their sustainable growth has become the agenda of the growing world economy. The recently conclude Conference of Parties-11 (COP-11) has once again brought the issue to forefront. As governments and international organizations debate strategies for biodiversity conservation, 'livelihoods' explores the concept of biodiversity, India's stand, interventions and the way forward in the movement to save biodiversity.



Biodiversity is defined as the variety of living organisms and their species in the environment. It refers to the myriad species in birds, mammals, viruses, bacteria etc. Biodiversity is categorized into three types:

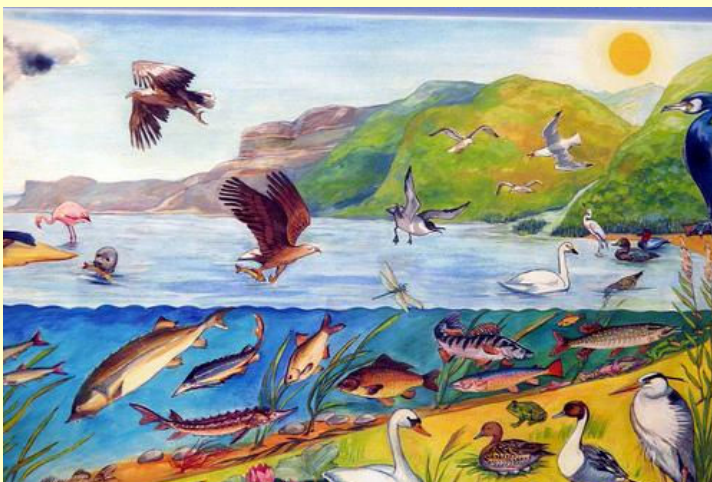
- i) Genetic diversity,
- li) Species diversity
- lii) ecosystem diversity

Genetic diversity

Each member of any animal or plant species differs widely from other individuals in its genetic makeup because of the large number of combinations possible in the genes that give every individual specific characteristic. Thus, for example, each human being is very different from all others. This genetic variability is essential for a healthy breeding population of a species. If the number of breeding individuals is reduced, the dissimilarity of genetic makeup is reduced and in-breeding occurs. Eventually this can lead to the extinction of the species. The diversity in wild species forms the 'gene pool' from which our crops and domestic animals have been developed over thousands of years. Today the variety of nature's bounty is being further harnessed by using wild relatives of crop plants to create new varieties of more productive crops and to breed better domestic animals. Modern biotechnology manipulates genes for developing better types of medicines and a variety of industrial products.

Species diversity

The numbers of species of plants and animals that are present in a region constitutes its species diversity. This diversity is seen both in natural ecosystems and in agricultural ecosystems. Some areas are richer in species than others. Natural undisturbed tropical forests have much greater species richness than plantations. A natural forest ecosystem provides a large number of non-wood products that local people depend on such as fruit, fuel wood, fodder, fiber, gum, resin and medicines. Timber plantations do not provide the large variety of goods that are essential for local consumption. In the long-term the economic sustainable returns from non-wood forest products is said to be greater than the returns from felling a forest for its timber. Thus the value of a natural forest, with all its species richness is much greater than a plantation. At present conservation scientists have been able to identify and categories about 1.75 million species on earth. However, many new species are being identified, especially in the flowering plants and insects. Areas that are rich in species diversity are called



'hotspots' of diversity. India is among the world's 15 nations that are exceptionally rich in species diversity.

Ecosystem Diversity

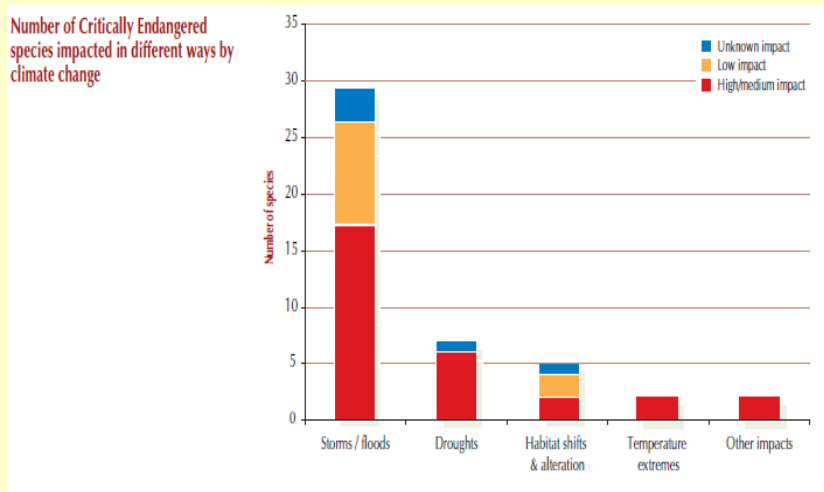
There are a large variety of different ecosystems on earth, which have their own complement of distinctive inter linked species based on the differences in the habitat. Ecosystem diversity can be described for a specific geographical region, or a political entity such as a country, a State or a taluka. Distinctive ecosystems include landscapes such as forests, grasslands, deserts, mountains, etc., as well as aquatic ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, and the sea. Each region also has man-modified areas such as farmland or grazing pastures. An ecosystem is referred to as 'natural' when it is relatively undisturbed by human activities or 'modified' when it is changed to other types of uses, such as farmland or urban areas. Ecosystems are most natural in wilderness areas. If natural ecosystems are overused or misused their productivity eventually decreases and they are then said to be degraded. India is exceptionally rich in ecosystem diversity.

Biodiversity is highly important for the existence of life in the earth, no life is possible in isolation and in the absence of oxygen and water. The conservation of species, land, water, ecosystem and atmosphere is necessary to protect life and livelihoods.

Growth and sustainability are in question today, growth at the cost of biodiversity is becoming a serious concern and their sustainable growth has become the agenda of the growing world economy. It is acknowledged that much of economic growth and prosperity has come at the cost of huge environmental and biodiversity loss. If growth continues at this pace and cost, soon there will be no more resources to exploit and further economic growth would be stunted. This has been the driving force behind the efforts of governments and international bodies to preserve

biodiversity. This approach is termed as anthropo-centric, i.e. it believes that biodiversity should be saved for the

further classified into three levels of impact - unknown impact, low and high impact. It has been observed that storms and floods have more effects on the life and survival of the species than droughts, habitat shifts, temperature extremes, other inputs.



betterment of the human race, as opposed to a viva-centric approach that seeks to protect the planet as a whole.

Population has surpassed grain production. The per capita consumption of grain has decreased in the last 100 years and it appears to be on a declining trend. Increasing population has a negative impact on biodiversity and resources at large. The demand for ground water has increased considerably in last couple of years across the globe. The total demand constitutes the demand for irrigation, domestic consumption, livestock, manufacturing and electricity. It has been estimated that the demand will continue to increase in coming years. Similarly the demand

land to non-forest activities is another worrying trend. The growing trend of forest destruction, diversion, reducing level of ground water and increase demand of water for various activities along with extinction of species is creating havoc on the ecosystem and its biodiversity. Their rate of reduction has increased manifold during last couple of years. Also the use of non-renewable sources of energy and its increasing demand and decreasing supply is shaking the fundamentals of the world's economy at large. There are also some trends of increase in the consumption and production of renewable energy like wind, solar etc. in various countries.

Table 1: Change in forest cover 1991-2011

State of the Forest Report Year	Dense (40 % and above crown cover) Forest (in sq. km)	Open (10 to 40 % crown cover) Forest (in sq. km)	Total Forest Cover (in sq. km)
1991	385008 (60.64)	249930 (39.36)	634938
2001	395169 (60.43)	258729 (39.57)	653898
2011	404207 (58.41)	287820 (41.59)	692027
Change from 1991 to 2011	19199	37890	57089

Note: Figure in parenthesis are the percentage to total forest cover

Source: Various issues of State of the Forest Report

The growing concern over the rapid extinction of different species and many more facing the threat of extinct forced the UNEP into action. In 1988, a Working Group commissioned by the UNEP called for an international convention for biodiversity. By May '89, a Working Group of legal experts was set up to work out an international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. After a series of deliberations over the next two years, the Convention

for power is also increasing and putting unprecedented pressure on natural resources.

The graph shows the number of critically endangered species impacted in different ways by climate change. It is

on Biodiversity was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. By June 1993, the convention was ratified by 168 countries. A governing body, Conference of Parties (CoP) consisting of representatives from all governments was formed.

	CoP	Place	Time	Decisions made on
1	1 st ordinary meeting	Nassau, Bahamas	December 1994	Guidance to the financial mechanism and medium-term program of work
2	2 nd ordinary meeting	Djakarta, Indonesia	November 1995	Marine and coastal biological diversity; Access to genetic resources; Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; Biosafety;
3	3 rd ordinary meeting	Buenos Aires, Argentina	November 1996	Agricultural biodiversity; Financial resources and mechanism; Identification, monitoring and assessment; Intellectual property rights
4	4 th ordinary meeting	Bratislava, Slovakia	May 1998	Inland water ecosystems; Review of the operations of the Convention; Benefit sharing
5	5 th ordinary meeting	Nairobi, Kenya	May 2000	Dry land, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems; Sustainable use, including tourism; Access to genetic resources.
6	6 th ordinary meeting	The Hague, Netherlands	April 2002	Forest ecosystems; Alien species; Benefit-sharing; Strategic plan 2002-2010
7	7 th ordinary meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	February 2004	Mountain ecosystems; Protected areas; Transfer of technology and technology cooperation
8	8 th ordinary meeting (Diversity)	Curitiba, Brazil	March 2006	Island biodiversity; Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; Global Taxonomy Initiative; Access and benefit-sharing, Communication, education and public awareness.
9	9 th meeting (Agricultural biodiversity)	Bonn, Germany	May 2008	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; Invasive alien species; Forest biodiversity; Incentive measures; Ecosystem approach; Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals; Financial resources and the financial mechanism
10	10 th meeting (inland waters biodiversity)	Nagoya, Aichi prefecture, Japan	October 2010	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Mountain biodiversity, protected areas, Sustainable use of biodiversity, Biodiversity and climate change. Aichi targets, Nagoya Protocol

To date, the CoP has held 10 ordinary meetings, and one extraordinary meeting. The latter, to adopt the Biosafety Protocol, was held in two parts- EXCOP 1 -First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena, Colombia & Montreal, Canada,- 23 February 1999 & 24 - 28 January 2000. From 1994 to 1996, the Conference of the Parties held its ordinary meetings annually. Conference of the Parties (CoP) was held regularly from 1994-1996 and met occasionally between 1996 and 2000. Since 2000, it has been made mandatory to meet once in every two years.

In this period, two major protocols in biodiversity were adopted:

- * Cartagena protocol, governing the movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern

biotechnology from one country to another. (Introduced on 29th Jan' 2000 and came to force from 11th Sep' 2003)

- * Nagoya protocol, aims at sharing benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including access to resources, transfer of knowledge, funding research to conserve bio diversity (29th Oct' 2012)

Discussions were held on Guidance to the financial mechanism and-term program of work, Marine and coastal biological diversity; to genetic resources; and sustainable use of biological diversity; Agricultural biodiversity; resources and mechanism; monitoring and assessment; property rights Inland water ecosystems. of the operations of the Convention; sharing. Dry land, Mediterranean, arid,

semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems etc., use of forest, land and water including tourism; to genetic resources were also in the agenda. Forest ecosystems and alien species also put in agenda. The Strategic plan 2002-2010 has been adopted. Mountain ecosystems; protected areas; Transfer of technology and technology cooperation, Island biodiversity; diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; Taxonomy Initiative; Communication, education and public awareness. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; alien species; Forest biodiversity; measures; Ecosystem approach; Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals; resources and the financial mechanism Marine and coastal biodiversity, Mountain biodiversity, protected areas, Sustainable use of biodiversity, Biodiversity and climate change. Aichi targets, Nagoya Protocol etc. were the important topics which were tabled and decisions were taken to protect, enhance and support to all the issues.

COP 11 and its outcome

CoP 11 was held at Hyderabad from October 1st to 6th and then from October 8th to 19th at HICC. 164 countries participated in the conference. The meeting began with election of officers, Jayanthi Natarajan, Union Minister for Environment and Forests took charge as President of COP for the next two years.

The CoP took stock of the status of Nagoya protocol on access to genetic resources and share of benefits arising from their utilization. Progress on the Aichi Biodiversity targets was also discussed. Each country was urged to focus on "championing" at least two of the twenty targets, with significant progress by 2015. This led to intense discussions on fund allocation, education and awareness campaigns and tools for monitoring implementation.

COP-11 focused on resource mobilisation for the ambitious Strategic Plan 2011-20 adopted at the previous COP at Nagoya, Japan. Strategies for resource mobilization as well as the plan for prioritizing for next 4 years discussed at length. As the meeting progressed, the fund allocation for realising the Aichi targets emerged as the bone of contention. So much so that the meeting ran late into the night on its last day by the time the delegates resolved the deadlock. India took the first step by announcing that it would earmark \$50 million to protect and enhance biodiversity on the planet. It was hoped that this move by the host country would encourage the other participant-countries to follow suit.

Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in marine ecosystems, ecosystem restoration and

the relation between biodiversity and climate change were also topics for discussion at the meeting. The delegates also called for more coordination with other relevant international conventions, organisations and initiatives. However, participating nations could not reach any possible conclusion regarding resource mobilization from their respective nations.

On 13 Oct, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed the COP where he announced the fund for biodiversity conservation and also promulgated the Hyderabad pledge on biodiversity. He highlighted efforts in conserving biodiversity. He made a special mention of the & 6 million worth jobs MGNREGS creates every year.

Climate change and emission reduction and identification of ecologically and biologically significant marine and coastal areas were discussed. Biodiversity & development was discussed. The focus was on how best knowledge from around the world could be used by developing nations to make their economic activity more productive and efficient.

Issues about urbanisation and more eco-friendly cities also came up during the meeting. A research done by 123 scientists across the world was tabled. The research showed that 60% of the would-be urban area by 2030 is yet to be built. This indicates immense scope for adopting eco-friendly and sustainable systems. European countries, Belgium and Poland have been cited which host more than 50% of floral and bird species found in their nations. The report also showed that approximately 50% increase in the world's urban areas would occur in Asia, especially in China and India.

In all, 33 decisions have been taken at CoP11.

India's Position on Biodiversity

India has been a proactive player in the realm of environment and biodiversity conservation. Being one of the countries that would be worst hit by climate change, India is serious about combating climate change and preventing extinction of species. The past few decades have put biodiversity conservation in the limelight in the country. The threat of extinction to the national animal, river dolphins, cheetahs and other species has put the government and civil society on alert. India has been voicing its opinions on emission reduction on various international fora. It has also invested huge amounts in renewable resources of energy. Further, India has also started an unprecedented exercise to record the vast array of local knowledge on the uses of various plants and herbs.

In India, biodiversity falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). The ministry coordinates and implements environment and forest preservation policies. It conducts surveys on flora, fauna, forest, wildlife and conservation of natural resources. It maintains a "Red Book" that records species which are endangered. The Botanical Society of India (BSI) Zoological Society of India (ZSI) and Forest Survey of India (FSI) conduct these surveys.

India has also invested considerable energy and money in habitat conservation. It has identified 4.2% geographical area for extensive habitat conservation. 85 National Parks and 448 Wildlife Sanctuaries have been created. In addition, it has established 275 zoos across the country. These efforts protect large number of animals like tigers, lions, crocodiles, rhinoceros and elephants in their natural habitat. The Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) indentified 299 plots for conserving different types of forests. Of these, 187 plots were allotted for natural forests and 112 for plantation. Together, they cover 8,500 hectors acres. The Government also introduced the Biosphere Reserve Programme where 12 biodiversity-rich areas were identified as Biodiversity Reserves. In these areas, the biodiversity is preserved and enhanced through natural processes to evolve diversity among animals, plants and micro organisms. Specific programmes were implemented to preserve wetlands and mangroves. 21 wetlands and 15 mangrove areas were identified in the country. National Lakes Conservation Plans prepared by the Government to reduce pollution, catchment areas treatment, de-silting and weed control activities. State level biodiversity boards were established to control the domestic consumption of genetic resources. The Project Tiger and Project Elephant programs were launched to preserve tigers and elephant population. Tiger is placed in the highly endangered list. Its population declined from 40000 to 1800 in seven decades (1900 to 1972). This has effected in a ban on tiger and elephant hunting. Special measures have been taken to protect their habitats.

National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) was established in 1992 to promote afforestation. Central and state governments have established 33 Botanical gardens to protect threatened endangered species in selected areas. Universities also have their own Botanical gardens.

Government of India made many Acts and Rules which are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity as follows -

Fisheries Act, 1857.

Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

Indian Forest Act, 1923.

Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937.

Indian Coffee Act, 1942.

Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947.

Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947.

Tea Act, 1953

Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957

Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960

Customs Act, 1963.

Cardamom Act, 1965.

Seeds Act, 1966.

The Patent Act, 1967.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Marine Products Export Authority Act, 1973.

Water (Prevention and Control Pollution) Act, 1974.

Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

Territorial Water, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1977.

Water (Prevention and Control Pollution) Cess Act, 1977

Maritime Zones of India (Regulation and Fishing by Foreign Vessel) Act, 1980.

Forest Conservative Act, 1980.

Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985/1986.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Spice Board Act, 1986

National Dairy Development Board, 1987.

Rule for Manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989.

Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Protection of Plant Verities and Farmers Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001.

Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003.

Biological Diversity Rules, 2004.

<p>Sunderlal Bahuguna: He was an environmentalist and leader of Chipko movement. He was a passionate follower of Mahatma Gandhi and had faith in the philosophies of non-violence and satyagraha. In early days he fought against untouchability and organized tribal women in his anti-liquor drive.</p> <p>He dedicated his life to save environment through Chipko movement. He went on hunger strikes at the banks of river Bhagirathi to protest against a dam.</p>	<p>Sunita Narayan: She is environmentalist and also political activist, and a strong advocate of sustainable development. She started her career and researching the India's Environment reports and studied issues that are related a forest management. She involved in global environmental issues in the 1990s. She focused on various fields like global democracy to climate changes and needs of local democracy. She worked hard to study the relationship between environment and development and to create public awareness about the necessity of sustainable development.</p>
<p>Waangari Mathai: Wanagri Mathai was a Nobel Peace Laureate who wa recognized for her work and contribution to environment. In 1976 Mathai started a grassroots organization, the Greenbelt movement whose main focus is the planting of trees with women groups in order to conserve the environment and improve their quality of life. However, through the Green Belt Movement she has assisted women in planting more than 20 million trees on their farms and on schools and church compounds. Her campaign against land grabbing and rapacious allocation of forests land has caught the limelight in recent past. Wangari Maathai was internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation.</p>	<p>Elinor ostrom: Poor people of the world mostly live on Common Property Resources (CPRs). Ostrom compared how different common-pool resources were managed at local levels and to hopefully uncover the rules that defined successful common-property arrangements. Her 'design principles' have become the new ways for institutions for shared/ common resources. In 1990, her efforts appeared in her book 'Governing the Commons', a work that once again set aside conventional wisdom that either privatization or government control was the best arrangement for managing common property.</p> <p>Elinor Ostorm has stood on the side of the poor to challenge the conventional wisdom and to argue that the CPRs can be successfully managed by the users themselves without any government regulation or privatization.</p>

The Food Safety and Stranded Act, 2006.

Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition Forest of Rights) Act, 2006.

While this list of policies and schemes appears exhaustive, there are still a number of ecosystems which the Government has not paid sufficient attention to. Wetlands, mangroves, grass lands are some such areas which require immediate attention. Further, biodiversity appears to be an afterthought or rejoinder in the policies for environment protection. There are very few biodiversity-specific policies. Inadequate enforcement, poor implementation, insufficient commitment in implementing eco-development programs, low priority in involving Non-Government Organizations and community in protecting biodiversity, lack of political commitment, scarcity of funds and inadequate are hindering biodiversity preservation.

Making a comprehensive list of data on flora and fauna biodiversity is the immediate task at hand. And this data should be available to the scientific, environment agencies

to design proper policies for biodiversity protection and overcome the information scarcity on biodiversity losses.

There are lots of efforts required for the biodiversity *enhancement*. Many policies focus on protection of biodiversity and not its enhancement. Further, small animals and micro organisms are often ignored in the policies.

Governments and non-government organisations across the world have acted to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity across the world. A major number of initiatives begin with preserving biodiversity and to control the damage inflicted on the ecosystem.

Local communities have a stake in the biodiversity in their environment. Their livelihoods are intertwined with the ecosystem and the biodiversity it harbours. As a result, locals have devised methods to nurture their ecosystem and follow practices that are not harmful. For instance, farmer communities in Uttarachal follow a method of farming known as the *barah anaj* (12 grains) system of

Centre for Environment Education (CEE):

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is a national institution engaged in developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment and sustainable development. CEE has inherited the rich multi-disciplinary resource base and varied experiences which have been promoting educational efforts in the areas of science, nature study, health, development, and environment. Environment is a significant factor of living. The lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians depend on the condition of the environment and any change in this condition affects these people significantly. Therefore, the people have to be educated about environment, so that, they can conserve the environment while utilizing the natural resources for their livelihood. Centre for Environment Education, CEE was created in recognition of this importance of environmental education in India's overall environment and development strategy.

CEE was established in 1984 as a centre of excellence supported by Nehru Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Its primary objective is to improve public awareness and understanding of the environment with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources, leading to a better environment and a better quality of life.

CEE works in many areas such as Education for Children; Higher Education; Education for Youth; Experiencing Nature; Communicating Environment through the Media; EE through Interpretation; Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development; Industry Initiatives, Sustainable Rural Development; Water and Sanitation; Sustainable Urban Development; Waste Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Ecotourism; Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation; Facilitating NGO and Community Initiatives; Training; Capacity Building and Networking; Initiatives for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and Material Development etc.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) – it was established in 2003. It implements India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is Autonomous body and that performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issue of Conservation, sustainable use of biological resource and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use.

The Biological diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation of the act through decentralized system with the NBA focusing on advice the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources; advice the State Government in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under sub-section (1) of section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites.

The state Biodiversity Board (SBBs) focusing on advice the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;

Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians; and Local Level Biodiversity Management committees (BMCs) responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivators, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

farming. In this system, a farmer cultivates 12 different kinds of crops throughout the year including wheat, *ragi*, maize, jowar, millets, etc. It ensures that the soil doesn't lose its composition and also the food security of the household. The Koraput community in Orissa is also known for its eco-friendly methods of farming. In January 2012, the

Koraput farming system was recognized as a Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System (GIAHS) by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This practice is said to be significant in protecting many rice varieties.

Local communities have also been at the forefront of movements to save the environment and biodiversity. The

<p>The Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF):</p> <p>The Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) is a registered Non Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Pune, India. AERF works towards biodiversity conservation at the grass root level – in the field of community-based conservation. The Foundation develops natural resource management models that actively involve local communities in the cause of conservation.</p> <p>Since its inception in 1994, AERF has been engaged in creating a link between conservation research and its actual use in the practices of sustainable development. AERF believes that establishing this link would aid not only ecosystem development, but also efforts in poverty alleviation.</p> <p>AERF has undertaken organized development and livelihood based projects, such as the widely publicized World Bank funded program to develop decentralized bio-fuel centers in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. The Foundation has also been expanding its scope of work and interests by taking on purely research based projects.</p>	<p>World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India:</p> <p>It is one of the largest conservation organisations engaged in wildlife and nature conservation in the country. Established as a Charitable Trust on November 27, 1969, it has an experience of over four decades in the field. From a modest beginning, the organisation was propelled forward by the efforts of its founders and associates who volunteered their time and energy to lend momentum to this movement.</p> <p>A part of WWF International, the organisation has made its presence felt through a sustained effort not only towards nature and wildlife conservation, but sensitising people by creating awareness through capacity building and environment-legal activism.</p> <p>A challenging, constructive, science-based organisation WWF addresses issues like the survival of species and habitats, climate change and environmental education.</p> <p>Historically, WWF-India started as a wildlife conservation organisation with a focus on protecting a particular species of wild flora and fauna. Over the years, the perspective broadened to reflect a more holistic understanding of conservation issues facing the country.</p>
<p>Indian Environmental Society (IES): IES a non-profit development organization and it has been promoting Environmental Improvement Initiatives in India since 1972. IES is active in Biodiversity conservation, Environmental Education, Waste management, Eco-Technology & Heritage Conservation, Education, Information Dissemination and Solid management. Environmental Education has been the centre-piece of all programs of the Society. The organization is meritoriously operating in different States of the Country.</p> <p>Conservation of biodiversity has always been an objective of environment education. IES has expertise in and has done a wide range of activities in this area. It coordinated the 'Education, Awareness and Training' Seminars/workshops on National Biodiversity Conservation. Several of its Eco-development Programmes looked at biodiversity conservation as a major thrust. There have been many school programmes, manuals and training programmes which had, and have, biodiversity as the focus area.</p>	<p>Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)</p> <p>Most of the nation's land is degraded and lying bare. Our ecological security, indeed the survival of the people of India, is inextricably linked with this degraded forest base are under threat. The situation can be reverted only if restoration of forests on degraded lands were placed in the hands of the people. This belief has proved to be true with the concerted efforts of an organization Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). Currently FES is focusing on the areas of restoration of forest cover, common lands and private lands in an interrelated manner in ecologically degraded and economically deprived area, Improving grazing lands to offset the pressure on forest in livestock domination production systems in dry land area, improving economic condition of the poorer people within the communities to ward off the threat that their poverty poses to the viability of the local institutional arrangements to protect forests, capturing critical information on the bio-diversity water and agriculture systems to highlight their critical value and accelerating measures to conserve the use of firewood and water through energy and water conservation measures. FES/ National Tree Growers Cooperatives Federation (NTGCF)s consistent efforts has shown a way forward for sustainable development of natural resources and their associated lives and livelihoods. The key seems to be - People's Ownership and their Involvement in the Management of common properties.</p>

Chipko Movement is one such instance that received significant attention at the national and international levels.

The forests in Uttaranachal are a source of subsistence for millions in the region. The increasing felling of trees alarmed the locals and prompted them to act to save their source of livelihood. The movement adopted a Gandhian method: members of the community would hug trees, daring the contractors to axe the trees. The movement soon spread all over the country and also succeeded in getting the Government to ban tree-felling for a time period.

Over the years, the Government has acknowledged the importance of natural capital to the locals and has tried to integrate them in the administration of these resources. Joint Forest Management (JFM) is one such initiative. Under JFM, the local Forest Department partners with the local government. Vana Samarakshana Samitis (VSS) are formed with members from the community. The responsibilities of the VSS include protection against grazing, fires and thefts of forest produce; development of forests in accordance with the management plan; and assisting forest officers in the development of forests. The VSS members and community are made aware of the negative effects of excessive grazing, NTFP collection, etc.

JFM started in 1988, ever since it has been the thrust of Indian forest policy has been to forge management partnerships with local communities. In re-discovering a legitimate role for local communities in self-governance of forests, the states have begun to devolve control over forests. There are similar samitis in tribal areas known as Adivasi Vana Samarakshana Samitis (AVSS). AVSS have the right to collect and sell NTFP from the forests they govern. In Kerala, there are Harithi Samitis to undertake environment conservation outside forest areas. The samitis exist at the village, block and district levels and are constituted by locals.

Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) are an example of collectivization for biodiversity and environment protection. Village-level Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) operate under the umbrella of the National Tree Growers Co-Operative Federation (NTGCF). The TGCs were organized to motivate people to grow suitable trees and grasses for meeting their needs of fuel -wood, improve the ecological-environment status in general. Accordingly, the most important activities of these TGCSs have been:

- * to lease-in village wastelands from the Government, known as revenue wastelands, and grow trees and grasses on these lands under the co-operative ownership
- * to adopt suitable soil and water conservation measures on the leased-in waste land to improve

its quality

- * to provide incentives for growing nurseries and planting trees and grasses on private marginal lands
- * to provide proper marketing facilities to the surplus produce of the leased-in wastelands as well as tree produce of the private lands
- * to facilitate installation of bio-gas plants, construction of smokeless for energy conservation
- * to arrange awareness and skill building programs

There are 307 TGCSs operating in six states with total leased-in wastelands of 4,502 hectare.

Natural Resource Management: As the name suggests, Natural Resource Management (NRM), means efficient use of locally available resources and minimize pollution. It is largely used in the context of agriculture. NRM is rooted in the belief that nature consists of enough checks and balances to prevent pests, and other elements from damaging crops.

Watershed management has emerged as one of the major instruments to preserve and regenerate biodiversity of an ecosystem. Watershed, also known as drainage basins is the point where the surface water in an area converges into a larger water body such as rivers, lakes, sea, etc. Watershed management becomes necessary to eliminate or reduce the pollution that enters the surface water in the watershed area. The pollution could be caused by chemicals used in fertilisers or due to discharge of other effluents into the streams. The source is not always identifiable, therefore management of the pollution to ensure minimal impact becomes important. Watershed management has also proven useful in helping regenerating fallow land or dry land. Ponds, check dams, bunds, gullies and other structures are built in the watershed to control the flow of the water and hold it where required (eg. for farmland). Watershed management therefore is not just managing the water resources in the watershed area but also efficiently managing the other resources in the area. Watersheds have proven to effectively recharge water bodies, enhance ground water levels, curb soil loss, reduce flood. This in turn has protected the habitat of innumerable species of plants and animals. Watershed management calls for using land based on its capability. It encourages intercropping and mixed cropping practices to retain fertility of the land. All these practices have also ensured vegetative cover throughout the year.

Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Since the Green

Revolution, agriculture scientists recommended the use of latest technology for higher yields. The success of the Green Revolution popularised the use of fertilisers and pesticides. More recently, GM seeds have been introduced to result in better agriculture productivity. However, these methods have proven to be destructive of natural resources. Fertilisers kill insects such as ladybirds, spiders, etc. that are helpful in controlling pests. Similarly, the use of GM seeds and hybrid seeds has made soil less fertile, and rendered lands infertile. Moreover, GM seeds promote monoculture practice (where only one kind of crop is cultivated). This has decimated traditional intercropping and mixed cropping practices. Given this, agriculture organisations have encouraged farmers to switch to sustainable agriculture practices. Sustainable agriculture ensures agro-diversity and the efficient use of plants and animals in the ecosystem.

Sustainable agriculture emphasises on ecological farming and eco-friendly methods to manage water, soil and land. Organic farming is growing popular as a production system. It encourages the use of organic/biodegradable inputs in cultivation. Organic farming methods are therefore customised according to locally available materials. Non-pesticide management is another popular practice. Here, pest control is done in an organic or biological manner. Naturally available material such as neem are used to control pests. Also, manures such as vermicompost are prepared using farm and household waste.

Tourism has emerged as a method to combat depletion of biodiversity. Ecotourism builds awareness on biodiversity for the travelers. Usually, ecotourism locations are areas that are abound with flora and fauna. Still an upcoming idea, ecotourism also helps in building infrastructure and provides livelihoods to the local communities.

Way ahead: Biodiversity is the variety of species – birds, animals, micro organisms and plants found in an ecosystem. In nature's scheme, all of these species have a unique role to play. These species are designed to be interdependent. The extinction of one species could trigger changes in the entire ecosystem. Traditional and indigenous practices recognize this in-built link in nature and strive to protect nature and its biodiversity.

It is no coincidence that the rapid decline in biodiversity has come when economic growth has been highest. Natural resources have been exploited and used unchecked. Deforestation has been the norm to accommodate increasing population. Rivers turned into dumping beds for industrial and urban waste. As a result, air, water and earth ceased to be what they were and the habitats of numerous

species collapsed just like that. After decades of activism and calls for action, climate change forced governments and people into action. Extinct or the threat of it to some iconic animals such as the Tiger and the Panda has also forced people to sit and take notice of the issue.

Despite the biodiversity and ecological crisis, governments still hesitate to spend for the cause or agree to meet targets set for reducing damage to the environment. The very approach to economic growth that caused the destruction on the environment is still being preferred. Development has become synonymous with rapid industrialization and urbanization. Markets have been promoting and molding mono culture attitude and luxuries life style. These are leading to high consumption of fuel, large scale infrastructure that have adverse affects on biodiversity. It is said that the 3 Cs- consumption, contamination and commercialization are most damaging to biodiversity.

Modern living, especially in urban areas has also hit biodiversity. Our cities need to be better planned to host a health ecosystem that supports a rich biodiversity. Our houses and other buildings should not drive away birds and animals. The house sparrow which was a common feature of homes has now vanished. Concrete structures do not give them the nests to build nests.

The various plans, protocols and conventions on environment and biodiversity lay down ambitious targets for the member-countries to achieve. But little is done to actually strategise and implement plans. The record of the biodiversity conservation efforts till date show that the top-down approach is not working. Biodiversity and its conservation is too complex an issue to have a uniform solution across. Local, indigenous knowledge is required in the fight. Indigenous peoples know the value of biodiversity as it is intrinsically linked to their livelihoods. The way forward should be to partner with these communities and involve them in the conservation efforts. They should be given rights over the local resources and be given relative autonomy. True, there have been initiatives such as JFM, but they are riddled with loopholes that make it easy for vested interests to exploit.

Still, biodiversity conservation requires a major shift in the thinking of people on the whole. Most conventions and conferences on biodiversity speak of conservation to enhance human life and growth. This needs to shift to thinking about the planet as whole. It important to understand the interlinks and interdependencies in nature. Any biodiversity conservation plan that seeks to improve the life of just one being and not the entire ecosystem is perilous. ❖

Decades of Dream for Land

Landless tribals, dalits and nomads under the leadership of Ekta Parishad started a March for land on 2 October 2012. It ended on 9 October 2012 with the Rural Development Minister assuring action on a 10-point agreement. According to the agreement, the Government will provide 10 cents of land to every landless and shelter-less poor family in rural areas, agricultural land will be distributed to the landless families in backward districts, strict implementation of Panchayat Extension of Scheduled Areas (PESA) in tribal areas and promised to constitute a taskforce committee with government officials and civil society activists headed by Rural Development Minister to forward land reforms. Importantly, the Government agreed to amend the Forest Rights Act for protection and providing land to vulnerable tribal, dalit and nomad people.

Jan Sathyagraha for land has a long history in the country. In 1951, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi started this trend. He asked the rich landlords to donate part of their land to the poor. Land owners across the country came forward and donated thousands of acres to the poor. Apart from Jan Sathyagrahas for land, the poor have been struggling for decades in the country in different forms. Communist and revolutionary parties have been waging armed struggle for this and they have distributed lakhs of acres of land to the poor.

The land issue goes back to the struggle for Independence. The leaders back then promised to distribute land to tillers after Independence. In rural areas, land is more than just a livelihoods resource. Apart from livelihoods, it depicts the socio-cultural status. Similarly land distribution is not just a welfare act to provide economic security; it is linked with justice and equity. Without land, envisaging a secure life is very difficult to the poor in the rural areas. In this context, after Independence the central government designed land reforms. A land ceiling was fixed and surplus land was distributed to the poor families. To get surplus land from the rich land owners Agriculture Land Ceiling Act was passed and almost all states passed similar Acts. Majority of land redistribution in India has happened through Government distributing land to the poor after aggregating land from the rich. This model is famous as Bengal model of land reforms. But majority of the distribution of land to the tillers and social equity promises almost remained only promises and crores of poor families are still suffering as they are landless.

Implementation of land reforms happened in a haphazard manner. Despite being well-intentioned, the Land Ceiling Acts had several loopholes that went in favor of rich land owners. Many land owners easily escaped from the ceiling

Act and retained their lands. Most of the states did not take Land Ceiling Act in a committed way towards to the poor families. As a result by 1970 only one million acres land was collected as surplus land. Of that surplus land also, only 50% of the land was distributed to the poor families. As a result, more than 40% are still landless in rural areas.

Present ongoing Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) policies are increasing the problem of the landless in rapid way. From common lands to fertile lands, all types of lands are being allotted to corporate companies. Real estate business is encroaching upon the existing agricultural lands. Land available for agriculture has been decreasing in the rural areas for 2 decades. Livelihood ways of the poor are shrinking and they have been forced to migrate to the towns and cities for livelihoods. Poor families deprived of their livelihoods particularly downtrodden communities are facing the disadvantages of being landless.

The statistics paint a worrying picture of the landless in rural areas. 43% families are landless (Below ½ acre), 13, 45% dalit families and 11.50% tribal families are completely landless, On the other hand, a mere 1.33% landholders control 15.20% of the land holdings, 63% of the small and marginal families control 15.60% of land holdings, landless among dalit increased from 56.8% to 61.9 % and landless among tribal increased from 45.5% to 49.4%. The statistics show that instead of decreasing landlessness in downtrodden groups, it has increased.

Most of the redistribution of the land exists on paper but not on ground. Some of the supposed beneficiaries do not own any land despite having the papers. Efforts to trace the land proved futile.

The situation is opposite for the landowners. They are encroaching the tribal and dalit lands with support of government officials or political leaders. The developmental projects like roads, industries and parks are displacing tribal and dalit from their lands and common resources. These projects displaced nearly 30million people. In such displaced people, 40% of the people belong to tribal and 25% of the people belong to dalit community.

In 2008, Government of India established National Council for Land Reforms. The Council hosts eminent experts and is headed by Prime Minister. At the same time state level committees were also established to complete unfinished land reforms. The Government drafted the Land Acquisition Bill 2012 to provide proper compensation, rehabilitation, resettlement and transparency. This raises one more ray of hope that this time poor will get their bit of land. ❖

Voluntarism Through the Years

Volunteers exist in various sections of the society, working for various causes. The spirit of volunteering is encouraged in individuals right from an early age. Voluntarism has been a part of our society for ages.

Charity and service are important principles in the Hindu tradition as they are in Islam and Christianity. For long, voluntary action was associated with religion. The first instance of non-religious voluntary action in the country came in 19th century when Christian Missionaries went beyond their evangelical mandate to help uplift poor people. Indian spiritual bodies such as Ramakrishna Math also started working with the poor.

By 1947, the poverty in the country was so deep-rooted and diverse that Government efforts wouldn't suffice. In the initial years after Independence, the State in India spent time on ensuring economic growth through building industrial activity. Many development workers, inspired by Gandhi took to grassroots work. The initial non-government sector included some of Gandhi's most ardent disciples such as Vinobha Bhave, Baba Amte, Manibhai Patel among others. These reformers attempted to enhance the economic status of the poor as well as pressed for social reform. Of course, their initiatives were mostly guided by Gandhian Principles. However, their reach was limited. Few could reach out to large number of poor spread across several states.

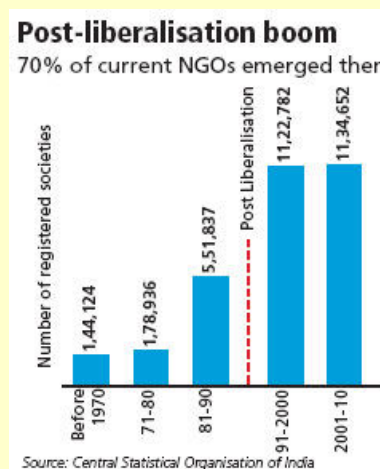
During the 60s, the Government realised that its efforts to build the heavy industries alone would not serve the purpose of economic growth. Poverty reduction would also require assistance from donor agencies and development organisations. Thus entered foreign aid through international NGOs. Some of the donor countries had their own NGOs through which they routed the funds.

Any discussion on the voluntary sector in India would be incomplete without mentioning Jaya Prakash Narayan (JP). The 1966 famine in Bihar moved JP to start the Sarvodaya movement to help in relief efforts. The movement attracted large number of youth from across the country. After the relief work was done, many of the volunteers stayed back and decided to start their own initiatives. Bunker Roy, Joe Madiath, etc. belong to this early school of volunteers in the country.

The voluntary sector continued to grow, especially under the Janata party regime in the 70s. However, the sector was not as lucky under the Congress Governments which

came down heavily on important voluntary organisations such as AVARD and Sarvodaya. This led to loss of credibility and confidence in the voluntary sector.

There was a spurt in professional development activity in the 80s. The establishment of NGOs like PRADAN, MYRADA, ASSEFA, etc. brought a flavour of professionalism into development work. It was realised that only ideology did not suffice to fight poverty. It also required professional support. The establishment of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) was also an indicator of this growing philosophy. Soon, a new crop of young professionals started to be staffed in development organizations. These professionals were recognized as a critical link in development efforts, besides community leaders and institutions.



The number of NGOs in the country grew rapidly in the post-liberalisation period. NGOs began to play new roles in the development field. Many worked with the Government in implementing schemes, partnerships between the Government and non-Government sector began to be seen as the way forward. NGOs are also being incorporated in the decision-making process. Further, a new breed of development workers, social entrepreneurs have also emerged.

On the whole, the voluntary sector in the country has grown into a sector viable for professionals. No more is ideology the only driving force for working in the sector. The professionalism that has entered the sector is welcome as it enables better and efficient work. Further, community workers are also being trained in management skills to help them take up larger roles in their institutions. ❖

Direction	Idea	Innovation	Emerging Livelihood
Farm Tools Library	Sanjeevani		Cell Phones Repair
<p>Agriculture implements are necessary for productivity in dry land areas. It is often found that small and marginal farmers are unable to afford agriculture tools such as tractors, threshers, motors pumps, etc. To solve this problem, the women's SHG federation in Sagbara block in Baruch district of Gujarat started a farm tools library in 2008. AKRSP (I) and ADB helped the federation to acquire the tools initially. The federation has been managing with the tools ever since.</p> <p>It lends to 531 BPL farmers in 10 villages in the block. It is mandatory that the farmers be a part of SHGs. The federation has formed a farm tools committee that consists of 10 members, each representing a village. The farmers notify the committee member about the requirement for tools. The committee then reviews the demand and lends the tools. Usually, the lending is done on first-come-first-serve basis. The federation runs the library on its own. It has hired a driver to deliver and maintain the tools. ❖</p>	<p>The Zilla Samakhya at Vishakhapatnam started the "Sanjeevani" health insurance for its 7200 SHG members and their families at a premium of Rs 260/member. The insurance covers 180 different ailments. The Samkhya has tied up with 27 private hospitals and partnered with all PHCs and smaller hospitals in the district to provide the treatment.</p> <p>The insurance programme is implemented by the Zilla Samakhya (ZS) with help from the Mandal Samakhyas and Village Organisations. Every VO in the district has formed a Health Subcommittee to review the progress of the programme. The ZS has established a call centre to receive health complaints. The call centre has a doctor to give immediate attention to the complaints, a District Programme Manager and case managers to manage it. The patient is referred to one of the partner hospitals for treatment. The ZS pays the hospital for the treatment. So far, 2000 members have availed hospital facilities while many more have outpatient services. ❖</p>		<p>The spread of mobile technology has given rise to demand for cell phone repair and maintenance services. This space is being filled fast by a large number of small entrepreneurs across the country. This phenomenon is true of both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Cell phone repairing has also emerged as a course in vocational training programmes. Most cell phone repair kioks are set up by young people who were compelled to stop their education in school itself. They learn the skill from vocational training institutes or skill training organisations. The course is for two-three months. Besides the skill, they are also taught the management of an enterprise.</p> <p>The cell phone repair shops offer a variety of products and services. They sell cell phone accessories such as earphones, cell phone covers, batteries, and cell phones itself. Services such as balance recharge, downloads, are also offered. ❖</p>
People	Leader	Community Worker	Volunteer/ professional
SHG Leaders	Book Keepers		Community Organiser
<p>SHGs under the Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP) in Andhra Pradesh elect their leaders from among the members. Each group elects a President and Secretary. Some groups also elect a Treasurer for the group.</p> <p>SHG leaders have the following qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belong to poor or poorest category Commitment towards collective development Maintain transparency in all group matters particularly in financial transactions Coordinate group members in achieving group vision by giving time for group activities Facilitate members to implement group norms and maintain bank transactions Represent in higher level federations and with line departments and others <p>SHG leaders usually possess good communication skills and coordination as their work involves voicing the concerns of their group to others. ❖</p>	<p>Book keeping is one of the <i>sapta suthras</i> of SHGs. It implies keeping a record of all the transactions and activities of the group, both internal and external. The group selects a bookkeeper to carry out all these activities. The bookkeeper could be one of the members, or related/known to the members. The bookkeeper should know how to read and write and have the basic arithmetic skills. She/he usually writes books for more than one group and is paid a fee by the group. The payment ranges between Rs 50 and 200. The group pays either from the corpus fund or the members give the fee amount along with the weekly savings amount.</p> <p>Book keeper has to attend group meetings which may be weekly, fortnightly and monthly. The book keeper records the minutes of the meeting, financial transactions and writes loan applications or promissory notes at the time of internal lending. The fundamental function of the bookkeeper is to ensure financial transparency in the group. ❖</p>		<p>Community Organiser (CO) is a key grassroots professional in the Mission for Elimination Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA). A CO's main job is to mobilize poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and strengthen the SHGs, Slum Level Federation (SLF) and Town Level Federation (TLF), grounding all poverty elimination schemes in the town. She/he has to monitor community level workers like book keepers and animators in municipal areas.</p> <p>CO reports to the Project Officer (PO) / Town Project Resource Person (TPRP) and to the Project Director (PD), MEPMA once in a month. CO is selected through an elaborate process that includes a written test, group discussion and interview. The Collector is the head of the selection committee. After selection, the CO has to undergo induction training. ❖</p>

Paddy Procurement Center

The Village Organisation (VO) at Qila Shahpur (Raghunathpally mandal, Warangal district) is engaged in a collective selling and purchase of paddy. Paddy is one of the major crops cultivated by farmers in the village.

The VO set up a sub committee to manage the initiative. The committee consists of 4-6 members who are elected by the VO members. Their responsibilities include book keeping, quality control. The members were trained in book keeping, quality control measures (grading the seeds), technical training, etc.

The VO informs the Adarsh Rythu, point person of the Agriculture Department in the village about the procurement date. The Adarash Rythu passes on the information to other farmers in the village.

The VO offers a fair price to the farmers and assures fair terms. The farmer also receives a receipt which he has to show to get his payment within 10-15 days.

The VO numbers and stores the paddy in its godown. The bookkeeper of the sub committee makes a record of the amount procured and submits it to the Mandal or Zilla Samakhya. The sub committee also informs the District



Project Manager (DPM) for Marketing. The transport for the paddy is arranged and sold at the nearest mill.

The paddy is then sent to the mill. After selling the paddy to the mill the VO has to inform the MS again and give them about the amount of the paddy sold to the mill.

In the last season, In the last summer, the VO procured 19,600 quintals of paddy from 156 farmers in the village.

The initiative has gone through some hardship. For instance, the members had to invest their money to prevent it from collapsing. Sometimes, the government departments tend to be slow in their response. ❖

Convergence

Convergence in MGNREGS

Convergence is possible if the delivery mechanism takes into account people's aspirations and people own the programme. Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Program (MPRLP) has set up one such example in Dindori district. MPRLP district team began with educating all the gram sabhas about existing Government schemes and the need for development. Gram sabhas discuss the schemes and plan how they can be used in convergence.

The development funds are channeled through the Gram Kosh and only those works which are prioritized and approved by the gram sabha will be taken up. Livelihood promoters of MPRLP play a key role in educating the village on various schemes and once villagers build confidence, they learn to ask for their due and choose what is right for them.

Small irrigation systems, bunds etc. have been created through MGNREGS. Besides MGNREGS is also used to dig wells and plant fruit trees. This is coupled with agriculture department's scheme for growing vegetables and department of sericulture for subsidy on silk worms etc. and diversified livelihoods are obtained from one place. District has built a cocoon center with funds from Backward Religions Grant Fund (BRGF), a fund which is aimed at sponsoring infrastructure useful for backward regions. In another example of convergence, fish ponds are dug with help of MGNREGS and department of fisheries has benefitted local fishermen. Marketing department has come forward to pick the fish from pond at a good price. This way, convergence of schemes contributes in a big way in lives of people in Dindora district of Madhya Pradesh. ❖



14 November Children's' Day

Tribal of Northeast Hills

Northeast India is the homeland of a large number of tribes. There are 145 tribal communities spread across the 8 states of the region. Of these, 78 are large tribes, each with a population of more than 5000. They constitute around 12 per cent of the total tribal population of India and 25.81 per cent of the total population of North East India (Total tribal population of the country is 8.14%).

Tribal communities in the Northeast are vulnerable on numerous counts – economic, socially and regionally. The geographic location has acted to their disadvantage. It is estimated that on an average, 60-80% of a household's income is spent on food, indicating the level of poverty in the region. Infrastructure is weak and even missing in large parts of the region. Further, existing resources of livelihoods such as forests, streams etc. are also fast disappearing. Their major livelihoods include shift cultivation, NTFP collection, local art and handicrafts, poultry rearing, etc. There are very few industries in the Northeast. Loss in traditional livelihoods and lack of alternatives forces many people to migrate to other parts of the country. Many young people flock to other cities in pursuit of education also.

The tribes in the Northeast are homogenous groups and each has unique culture. With the introduction of development programmes and influence of "mainstream" culture though media, the culture of the tribes is also fast dying. ❖

Distress Migration

Distress migration is a situation where the individuals flock to large cities/towns/economic centres in search of better opportunities.

Distress migration occurs due to breakdown in the traditional occupations, rising risk factors, rising debt and lack of alternatives in the local area to compensate for loss of traditional livelihoods. It leads to displacement on a short term basis.

It affects the entire households. Children lose out or fall back in school, the family takes time to adjust to its new settings and often, the condition in the new area is much worse. Their village at least offered social and moral support, which is absent in the new urban setting. Economically also, the family barely makes end meet. Being new to the area, they are also susceptible to economic, psychological and social exploitation. They are forced to live in small, cramped houses in unhygienic slums.

Distress migration can be curbed by creating alternative opportunities in rural areas and building the social, financial and human capital for the poor. SHGs, collectives should be encouraged. ❖

Elder People in India

There are 100 million elders in India of which two-thirds of them are said to be poor and vulnerable. Decline of physical abilities coupled with breakdown of traditional joint family structure, has led many poor and marginalized elders to lead a hand-to-mouth existence. Most are unable to actively pursue their livelihoods and are uncertain of how they will sustain themselves. More than other poor and vulnerable people, most elders do not have access to financial services such as loans, savings and insurance. Health issues such as arthritis, vision and hearing impairments etc., further hamper their efforts to lead active lives. To add to this, many elders feel lonely and unwanted, with serious psychological repercussions.

There are instances in the country that prove that given the right platform and opportunity, elder persons can also contribute economically and socially. Elders' SHGs are running well in many parts of the country. These groups have helped the elders feel less lonely, access credit to start new livelihoods and play an active role in the community. There are a number of policies and laws to aid elders such as the National Policy on Old Persons, Parents Maintenance Act, etc. Still, a lot remains to be done in ensuring that elders enjoy respect and a dignified role in society. ❖

Flood

Flood is a natural vulnerability that poses risk the community on the whole. Communities that live on the riverside, coast, low-lying areas are most flood-prone. Flood occurs as a result of excessive rainfall. The situation is aggravated by a lack of a proper drainage system for the water to flow.

Floods damage crops, affect fishing, make storage difficult, damage assets and claim lives. At times, floods render land unfit for farming. They leave behind unwanted sediments that affect the soil quality. Floods also spoil roads and disrupt transport systems. This further hampers economic activity. Some areas remain cut off from the mainland for days together. This makes rescue efforts more difficult.

It takes a long time for flood-affected communities to recuperate. Often, they lack insurance for their assets to compensate for their loss. Further, flood situations also give rise to a number of water borne diseases which can fast turn into epidemics if not controlled in time.

The best mitigation strategy for floods is to have prior information. Knowing that a storm or excessive rainfall is imminent would help the community prepare itself and therefore reduce the impact or loss. ❖

Tyre Puncture Repair Shop

Md Rahim in Arsapalli (Nizamabad district) runs a tyre puncture shop in the village. Earlier, he used to work in a tyre puncture repair shop where he learnt to repair tyres of all types of two wheelers. After a few years, he decided to set up his own shop on the main road near the mandal office. To establish the shop, he asked his wife to borrow Rs 10, 000 from her SHG. He also borrowed some money from a local moneylender.

Rahim required some old tyres, spare tubes, a tool kit with some extra nuts and bolts and an air pump to begin work. This cost him about Rs 6,000. His business started well as his shop was strategically located on the main road from Nizamabad to Bodhan. He hired an assistant to help him around the shop. Rahim pays him Rs 2000/month.

The business is brisker in the summer season. He charges Rs 40 per puncture patch and Rs. 220 in case of a tube replacement. He earns an average income of Rs 680 for 6 punctures and 2 tube replacements in a day. He spends Rs 360 per day (Rs10 towards tools, Rs 5 towards shop rent and Rs. 260 per two tubes). His net income is Rs. 320. He earns Rs. 8320 per month. Excluding helper salary Rs. 2000 his net income is Rs. 6320 per month. ❖

Social

Agarbatti Making

Komaram Bheem Self Help Group (SHG) in Kerameri (Adilabad) has 10 members. The group started a collective enterprise in Agarbattis. They did a small market research on the Agarbatti demand in local markets in Nirmal, Adilabad, Mancherial, Laxettipet and Utnur markets. Sub committees were formed to purchase inputs, bring orders and sell in various places and for production.

For the initial capital, the group pooled money from its corpus and borrowed a loan of Rs. 3 Lakhs from the bank. They rented an old bidi rolling unit space for making agarbattis. The members make the agarbattis with bamboo sticks and perfumes. Each member produces 2000 agarbattis in a day. The group makes the agarbattis as per the number of orders they receive from nearby markets. They also produce more and keep a stock available in case of an emergency.

The group sells the agarbattis to local retail sellers and whole sellers. They sell agarbattis in bundles(50 sticks). With Rs 10 per bundle. They spend Rs 3 for inputs, Rs 2 on marketing. All costs included, the group spends Rs 5 on each bundle. They earn a net income of Rs. 2,000 per day and each member earns Rs 5,000 a month. The group is planning to diversify and use various perfumes to make different scented agarbattis to enhance their sales. They plan to produce more at festivals time. ❖

Public

Special School for Disabled

Adarana Foundation has been running a school for disabled persons for the last two years in Pochampally village & mandal. The Foundation is an initiative of 6 people in the village. The Foundation noted that there are not enough facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the village and decided to start the school. They began by conducting a survey on the number of disabled in the area (Pochampally mandal) and organized meetings with parents of disabled children. The school does not charge a fee.

The board members came forward to contribute Rs. 3,000 per member per month to run the school. They took a big house on rent for the school and NGO office. A teacher (Special B.Ed) for a salary of Rs 5,500 and one helper for a salary of Rs. 1,500 were appointed as staff in the school. The school purchased a Teaching Learning Material (TLM) tool kit with Rs. 10, 000 to aid in the teaching. 15 disabled children in the 6-14 age group are enrolled in the school. One person in the village contributed two pairs of clothes to each student. The Foundation is planning a revenue model for the school. So far it has covered its costs by taking up research studies for other organizations. ❖

Water Plant

The Gram Panchayat in Chatanpally, Mahabubnagar has been managing a potable water plant since 2010. Earlier, the village had no access to drinking water and had to make do with contaminated water. This caused illnesses among the villagers.

In 2010, Arunodaya, a NGO working in the area established a water purifying plant in the village and handed it over to the Gram Panchayat.

The Gram Panchayat formed a sub committee consisting of six members of the gram sabha to manage the water plant. In turn, the sub committee hired a person to take care of the plant full time. It pays him Rs 1000 a month.

The water plant sells the water in plastic cans with a capacity of 20 litres each. It charges Rs 3 for 20 litres and provides water for free to orphans and the destitute. In a day, the water plant sells 60-70 cans in a day. It earns about Rs 6000 a month which is sufficient for its expenses. ❖

This is My Only Skill

Ramu, 35 years, is a dairy farmer from Paipaadu village. He tells 'livelihoods' about his life, livelihood and living.

Q: Where is your native place?

A: I belong to Paipaadu village. It falls under Waddepally mandal in Mahabubnagar district.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I live with my wife in Paipaadu. Recently, we were blessed with a daughter. I have a twin brother, his name is Laxman.

Q: What do you do for a living?

A: I have 4 buffaloes. I take them for grazing every day. I sell milk to others in my village every morning. I also supply milk at the local dairy in Shanti Nagar every evening.

Q: What is your education qualification?

A: I did not go to school at all. My family was very poor and my parents did not care much about educating us. At the age of ten, I started working as a house-help at a big farmer's house in my village. In the morning I used to do the household work in the morning. I also used to take care of the buffaloes which the family owned. I used to take the buffaloes for grazing in the day time. I was in this work till I was twenty. In those ten years, I worked in four different houses.

Q: Why did you leave that kind of work?

A: My last employer decided to sell his buffaloes and even I was losing interest in that kind of work. I told my employer and he too encouraged me to venture into something else. Since I did not know any other skill, my employer said he would give me the buffaloes and I could pay at a later date. Hence, I started my own business.

I am really grateful to my employer and his family. They have supported me throughout and even got me married. They even helped build a house.

Q: How has your business been since then?

A: Initially, I began with 4 buffaloes. Then, one of the buffaloes gave birth to two calves. Whenever one buffalo stops giving milk, I go to the market and get it exchanged for a productive one.

Q: Are your buffaloes insured?

A: No, they are not. I am not aware of it.

Q: What problems do you face?

A: The buffaloes I own do not give enough milk. This is because they are not of a high productive breed. I also do not have enough space to house the buffaloes. Sometimes, when my buffaloes stray into others' fields, they get beaten up by the owners.

Q: What do you plan to do about these problems?

Once I clear off my loans, I will buy high productive buffaloes and increase my income. This is my only skill and I plan to continue in this line. ❖

Sports for Development

Shilpashetti Gangadhar Goud, 27yrs, he shares his experience as social worker with 'livelihoods'.

Q: Where do you belong?

A: I belong to Yousufpeta a village in Shankarampeta mandal, Medak district.

Q: What is your education qualification?

A: I completed my M.A (Political science, Sociology) and also completed B.Ed (Bachelor of Education) from Osmania University. I secured the best student award in B.Ed College.

Q: How long have you been working with Magic Bus?

A: I have been working as a Training and Monitoring Officer with Magic Bus for 13 years now. I work in 45 villages in Medak.

Magic Bus works with youth on sports related issues. It believes that development through sports would lead to overall development. I heard about the job from a friend. By then, I had six years of work in various grassroots organization already behind me. Magic Bus conducted a written test and interview. I was selected and sent for a one-month training in Mumbai.

Q: Tell us more about your work?

I give training to mandal youth mentors and village level community sports coaches (CSCs- 125) on education, children rights, gender rights, gender equality, health and nutrition. I monitor their work and I regularly keep in touch with youth mentors and CSCs. The District Project Manager monitors our work, I give reports to DPM and conduct review meeting every month. We conduct orientation programs for parents, children with village level line department people like teachers, Anganwadi workers, Axilury Nursing Midwife (ANM).

I like this type of work and am enjoying it. The children share their personal problems with us. Sometimes, the parents don't like their children spending time on sports. We explain to the parents that sports is important for their children to grow up into healthy and responsible persons.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: I have a few responsibilities on the family front. Once I fulfill those, I will become a teacher. In the meantime, I will improve my skills further. ❖



Demand Estimation

Demand estimation for a product will include the cumulative demand for the product/service in the market.

The demand estimation template is shown below.

To determine the market demand, consultation major

appointment with them. The discussion with the concern person can happen over telephonic conversation but it is advisable to visit them and discuss. Talk to at least 2-3 such big players to get a balanced view.

Product (s)	Description	Sector/ Industry	Demand Size in Rs. (Consultation 1)	Demand Size in Rs. (Consultation 2)	Demand Size in Rs. (Consultation 3)	Average in Rs. $((D1+D2+D3)/3)$
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
N						

players in the market the product. The key players could be large traders in the business and could be at the local market, block, district or beyond.

It is always advisable to include the biggest supplier/ manufacturer or seller of the product(s) in demand estimation exercise.

Demand estimation for a product can be done with the following steps:

- * Identify the product, its industry and describe the feature, form and use.
- * Identify the key players in the market in that area. List down the contact details of the person and fix an

To ascertain the demand ask the key players where they buy the product from and how much they buy. Also ask them what they estimate the demand would be. From this information, conclude how much the demand would be. Remember that the information would be approximate, not accurate.

Calculate the average of the demand estimated by the experts/key players. This would be the demand for the product/service.

Similarly, demand estimation can be done for skills and jobs in a market. Then, the demand estimation will be more in terms of personnel requirement. ❖

Swayam Krishi Vikalangula Samakhya

Swayam Krishi Mandal Vikalangula Samakhya was established on 10 November 2004 with 35 Disabled Self Help Groups in Raghunathpally mandal, Warangal district, Andhra Pradesh. Its main aim is to facilitate disabled people's comprehensive development through thrift and credit and linkages with various line departments and hospitals. The Samakhya has an Executive Committee (EC) which consists of all the member-SHG's leaders. The EC meets every month and reviews the functioning of the groups. The Samakhya has four sub committees - social development committee, monitoring committee, livelihoods committee and rehabilitation committee.

The Samakhya conducted medical camps to give medical services, instruments to disabled persons. Free train and bus passes were provided to 340

disabled persons. The Badwan Mahaveer Trust provided 53 persons with artificial limbs and calipers. The Samakhya bore the expenses for the treatment of 14 persons with mental disability. It has also conducted 25 Mega Polio camps. Janasree Bheema insurance was provided to 526 members.

The Samakhya has also conducted different types of training programs to disabled persons. It identified persons with different disabilities and trained them in cultural programs and formed a Kalajaatha Group. It conducted number of training in villages to creating awareness on disability and rights of disabled persons. It provided training to 20 disabled persons and appointed them as Community Resource Persons (CRPs). It has also provided placement oriented trainings to 20 disabled persons and placed them in different enterprises. ❖

Support Organization

Centre for Rural Operations and Programs Society

Centre for Rural Operations and Programs Society (CROPS) was established in 1991. It aims is to work for united, self-reliance, inter dependent, equitable, gender sensitive and eco-friendly society. Its objective is to increase the incomes of farmers and to support eco-friendly society. It works for rural community development particularly farmers, children and women development in draught prone districts of Telangana region. CROPS opts to realize its aim through social mobilization and linkage with national and international humanitarian organizations.

CROPS works in 55 villages in Lingala Ganapur, Devaruppla, Raghunath Pally, Jangaon, Bachannapet mandals of Warangal district in Andhra Pradesh. Its focus areas include agriculture, health, education, women empowerment, child development, natural resource management

and human rights.

In agriculture, CROPS runs programs like organic farming and non pesticide management in cotton and chilly crops. It promotes SRI cultivation; thrift and credit, community based seeds production, organic fertilizers production, solid waste management, land development and watershed programs. CROPS established a farmer's cooperatives to promote organic farming and collective selling of organic products.

CROPS established SREESHAKTHI WOMEN MACs with 5467 women to promote thrift and credit program.

CROPS created a model village Enabavi where agriculture is completely free from chemical fertilizers, pesticides and genetically -modified crops. This village became a model village for organic farming. ❖

Training Organization

Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Rural Institute

Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Rural Institute (SRTRI) was established in 1995 at Jalalpur village, Pochampally mandal, Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh. Its main focus is to facilitate employment opportunities through enhancing the skills and capacities of poor youth. It also focuses on facilitating income generation programs to the rural youth. It concentrates on enhancing the capacities of rural poor by using smaller technologies. SRTRI selects smaller technologies which are accessible and eco-friendly. It works to increase rural poor incomes and facilitates to access quality life to the poor in rural areas. SRTRI provides various services like trainings, education, consultancy service, research and development. It develops, test and promote eco-friendly technologies which are suitable for rural poor. It

develops and modifies artisans' tools according to the local requirements. It establishes information centers in rural areas which can provide required information to the producers and consumers. SRTRI also promotes social entrepreneurs in rural areas to provide employment opportunities and also to prevent migration from rural areas to urban areas. SRTRI offers two types of courses short term and long term training courses to unemployed youth to provide employability among them. SRTRI is providing training on various courses like information technology, engineering trades, electrical & electronics, textile trades, surface ornamentation, food processing trades, entrepreneur development programs, automobiles and diesel mechanism. ❖

Biodiversity Act, 2002.

India's richness in Biodiversity and its knowledge is well recognized throughout world. But in order to sustain that knowledge and resources one of the key challenges is the conservation and the sustainable use of the resources. The Bio Diversity Act, 2002 was passed by the two houses of Parliament. With rising bio- piracy and bio based trade it was felt that the serious checks, backed by the force of law are needed.

Further, it was also felt that conservation of bio diversity should be taken as a whole and not through the sector specific laws of forest, water, pollution etc. All of these pointed towards the need for comprehensive legislation around the principle of people based conservation.

Salient features

The Salient Features of the Act are-

- * To regulate access to biological resources of the country with equitable share in benefits arising out of use of biological resources.
- * To conserve and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The main intent of this legislation is to protect India's rich biodiversity and associated knowledge against their use by foreign individuals and organizations without sharing the benefits arising out of such use, and check bio piracy. The Act provides for setting up of a National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in local bodies. NBA and SBB are required to consult BMCs in decisions relating to use of biological resources/related knowledge within their jurisdiction and BMCs are to promote conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biodiversity.

All foreign nationals/organizations require prior approval of NBA for obtaining biological resources and/or associated knowledge for any use. Indian individuals/entities require approval of NBA for transferring results of research with respect to any biological resources to foreign nationals/organizations. Collaborative research projects, and exchange of knowledge and resources under these projects are exempted provided they are drawn as per the policy guidelines of the Central Government and have its approval.

Indian industry is required to give prior intimation to the

concerned SBB about obtaining any biological resource for commercial use, and the SBB may restrict the activity if found to violate the objectives of conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. However, Indian citizens/entities/local people including vaidas and hakims to have free access to use biological resources within the country for their own use, medicinal purposes and research purposes.

While granting approvals, NBA imposes terms and conditions to secure equitable sharing of benefits. Before applying for any form of IPRs in or outside India for an invention based on research or information on a biological resource obtained from India, prior approval of NBA will be required. There is an enabling provision for setting up a framework for protecting traditional knowledge. The monetary benefits, fees, royalties as a result of approvals by NBA to be deposited in National Biodiversity Fund which will be used for conservation and development of areas from where resource has been accessed, in consultation with the local self government concerned.

Provision for notifying National Heritage Sites important from standpoint of biodiversity, by State Governments in consultation with local self government.

Provision for notifying items, areas for exemption provided such exclusion does not violate other provisions. This is to exempt normally traded commodities so as not to adversely affect trade.

Complexities.

Though the Act is a significant step towards checking bio piracy and conservation of biodiversity in the country, it still leaves some questions unanswered.

The Bio- diversity acts talks more on accessing the biodiversity resources rather than the use and conservation of it.

Secondly, the Bio diversity management committee at the local level which could have really enabled the local community in conservation, sustainable use of the resources, their roles are limited in documenting biological diversity.

Further, the task of planning on conservation, promotion and sustainable use of bio diversity is centralized. Hence the active participation of the local communities is missing in the total process of Bio diversity conservation and sustainable use. ❖

The Origin of Species

Author/ Editors: Charles Darwin

"The Origin of Species", presents one of the most important theory shifts in the history of modern science, written by one of the greatest thinkers of the past few centuries – Charles Darwin. This book produced 150 years ago as 'The Origin Species'.

Neither has any one heard of genes, though he published The Origin, and his Idea weren't really acknowledged until the early 20th century.

An example of his thoroughness could be his treatment of the different varieties of pigeons in the first chapter. A few pages in the first chapter read like an encyclopaedia, and this is not the only instance such detail in the book. Another notice in the book there are more examples of given as references.

He built his argument in the book masterfully, fighting off objections from several directions. The book begins by awing at the species and varieties undoubtedly created by selective breeding of farm animals and plants by human civilization. Then, he went on to lay the foundations of his theory of natural selection by describing the varieties arising in nature, the fight for existence in the presence of limited resources, and so on.

A few chapters are spent on answering the various objectives that has arisen to the theory. Darwin concluded by a couple of chapters that present further support to natural selection, from miscellaneous topics like geographical distribution of species, morphology and embryology.

In the book in conclusion he calls his theory of descent with modification through variation and natural selection and later he comes about as far possible to heresy at time by starting. He believes that animals are descended from at most only four or five progenitors, and plants from an equal or lesser number. Similarity would lead one step farther, namely, to the belief that all animals and plants are descended from someone prototype. But analogy may be a deceitful guide. ❖

Resources

1. Indian Environmental Society (IES): IES was established in 1972. It is active in environmental education, biodiversity conservation, information dissemination, solid waste management, and eco-technology and heritage conservation. www.iesglobal.org

2. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA): NBA was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act 2002. The NBA is Autonomous body and that performs facilitative, regularity and advisory function for Government of India on issue of Conservation, sustainable use of biological resource and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use. www.nbaindia.org

3. Centre for Environment Education (CEE): CEE was established in August 1984 as a centre of excellence supported by the ministry of environment and forests, government of india. CEE national institution and promote environmental awareness nationwide. CEE is affiliated to the Nehru Foundation for Development.

www.ceeindia.org ❖

E-Resources

- * LEAP links: http://www.livelihoods.net.in/digital-library/doc_download/590-mudireddy-pally-leap
- * Value Chain Analysis: http://www.livelihoods.net.in/digital-library/doc_download/592-broom-grass-value-chain-analysis
- * e- Book: Pedagogy of the Oppressed http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/158-pedagogy-of-the-oppressed
(Sources: <https://rapidshare.com/#!download|855p10|359911996|0826412769.pdf|5943|0|0>)
- * V-link on Biodiversity: Floodplains for livelihoods and biodiversity in North Bihar (Jaltantra) <http://youtu.be/Qk6EJmYNvw>

The Enemy of Nature

Author: Joel Kovel enrich

The Enemy of Nature :The End of Nature or the End of the World? In this book Kovel detailed with great sobriety the matter-of-fact implications of capitalism for nature and humanity.

In the first section, he discussed about capitalism is analyzed as system, with ecological crisis occurring as the logical outcomes of 'the never-ending pressure to cut costs -or, from the other side, to make profits'. He strengthens his case by providing illustrations of how capitalism permeates every aspect human existence, from the individual to global level.

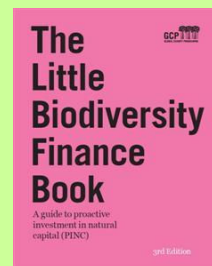
In the second section discussed about more philosophical ground, beginning with a discussion of ecological concepts. One of the most valuable things about this book is its interviewing of natural and human ecosystems. In that Kovel updates Marx's notion of alienation by theorizing it in terms of ecological integrity.

In the section three he focused on the practical aims of working toward, and achieving, international ecosocialism. Many critiques tend to disregard this type of exercise, but it is exactly what is needed. His repeated demands for self-governance are informed by his critical analysis of capitalism and of "actually existing socialisms," as are his ideas for creating democratic, ecological approaches to work and organization.

The book is well organized, as its various threads eventually weave together, leading up to some concise and power - full conclusions. ❖

New Book

Publisher: Oxford



Increasing Eco-clubs in India

No. of Eco-clubs established under the NGC Programme (since 2004-05)								
State/UT	No. of Eco-clubs							
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Andhra Pradesh	3900	3900	5750	5750	5750	5750	5750	5750
Arunachal Pradesh (NE)				525				
Assam (NE)					4695	5207	5207	5207
Bihar	5700	5266		7200	8473	8971	8971	8871
Chandigarh (UT)		110	112	113	115			
Chhattisgarh	2400	2373	4000	3932	3932	3932	3932	4000
Delhi (NCT)	1500	1500	1600	1600	2000	1874	1796	1796
Goa	300	441	500	500		500		
Gujarat	3750	3750	6250	6500	6500	6750	6750	
Haryana	2750	2850	5000		5000			5250
Himachal Pradesh	1800	1800	1693		3000			3000
Jammu & Kashmir					5500			
Jharkhand	3300							2842
Karnataka	4800		8000	8000				
Kerala	2100			3500	3500	3500	3500	3500
Lakshadweep (UT)	12							
Maharashtra	5400	5400	8844	8844	8898	8898	8905	8905
Manipur (NE)	900		1350	1350				1750
Mizoram (NE)	1200	1200	1200	1235	1235	1235		
Madhya Pradesh	7200	7200	7200	12000	12000	12500	12500	12500
Nagaland (NE)	800	800	2107	2048		2227	2275	2280
Orissa	4500	4500	5900		7500	7500	7500	7500
Puducherry (UT)	550	550		513	513			
Punjab	2550	2550	4250	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Rajasthan	4800	4800	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8250
Sikkim (NE)		540						
Tamil Nadu	4500	4500	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500	8000
Tripura (NE)	600	600	600	600	600			750
Uttar Pradesh		10500	10747					
Uttaranchal				1950				
West Bengal	2850	2850	4750	4750	4750	3912		3912
Total	68125	67943	87353	91447	112844	93256	87586	99,063

* as on 07.03.2012.

Eco-clubs have been established under National Green Crops (NGC) Programs in 2004-05 across the country through State Nodal Agencies (SNAs).

- * The eco-clubs have been increasing yearly
- * In 2008-09 years the highest number of clubs were established. ❖

Self Confidence Developed Business

Vishnu (36) belongs to Pochampally in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh. He is having wife and two children. He studied up to S.S.C. His family occupation is handloom. But he was not interested to do the weaving. He was not interested in continuing education. Then he decided to do any work. He has no belief in handloom work as it can't give him sustainability, so he preferred to work at any shop that would develop his career. He joined as sales boy at a Kirana shop in the village. He worked there for one year and he learnt market tips and developed good relationship with customers. After one year, he wanted to start Kirana shop of his own. He discussed with his parents and brothers and they agreed and invested Rs.30000 at that time. He started Kirana shop at his house. Gradually increased and put more Kirana items in the shop. In 2002, near Gandhi statue in the village, a wholesale Kirana shop owner wanted to sale his kirana shop. Vishnu heard about it and wanted to purchase that shop with Rs.2.5 lakhs. The wholesale kirana shop has been running good and it became a big kirana shop in the village now. Because of his good relations with customers and small shop owners of nearby the villages who come for kirana items on wholesale basis, his business developed well. His old shop is also running well at home. Previously they had asbestos house, now they reconstructed it as double floor building. They have become financially sound. Vishnu purchased two houses in the village and one plot in the Hyderabad also. Now, Vishnu family is happy with their business. ❖

Into Employment

Developed in Life by Utilising Skills

Gardasu Naveen (23), He belongs to Venkatramana Colony of Pochampally Village. He is having father, mother and two elder brothers. He studied ITI at Hyderabad and stayed at home for some days. He joined Mobile servicing course at the Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Rural Institute (SRTRI). He completed three months course. After competition, he joined at Mobile shop as mobile servicing in the village. After six months, one of his neighbour working at Samsung Mobile Show Room in Chaitanyapuri, Hyderabad. Met him and Naveen requested him to get work at Samsung mobile show room. Then he introduced Naveen to Samsung Mobile show room people. They conducted test on mobile repairing, he passed in that test and he got a job in the Samsung Show Room. In that shop his works are repairing and selling mobiles. There he is called as executive. Present, he is getting salary of Rs. 10, 000. At the same time he gets commissions on the selling of mobiles to customers. The SRTRI also recorded his case study because he developed skills, joined good mobile show room and getting good salary. They are showing it to other people who are coming to training courses. Naveen is saying because of his training on mobile servicing at the SRTRI, it changed his life and got good job. In future, he wants to complete B.Tech and be in good position in the Job or start his own mobile shop in Hyderabad. ❖

Addiction to Gambling Made Poorer

Raju (30) belongs to Pochampally. He is having wife, daughter and mother. He studied up to tenth class. He was not interested to continue further education. He has 3 sisters. They have Tent house. Raju's brother-in-law asked him to work at tent house. He worked there for some days. After he left the tent house and came to Pochampally. Some days he was without work and after that started a General store at home. Because his house is adjacent to main road the shop was running good. During that time his family situation was good. But unfortunately he became friend with some outside villagers and started drinking with his friends regularly. Once, one friend introduced about 'Matka' game to Raju. He was attracted to the Matka game. He started barrowing with his friend to play the game. Initially, he got double amount from the game. Therefore he stopped looking the general shop. Then, that shop was looked by wife and mother. His family members opposed the game. But, the greed of Raju made him spend more money in the Matka game which he lost in the game. Even though, he continued playing the game. Again he lost the money. He had become slave to the game; he borrowed so far Rs. 10, 00,000 from friends. When nobody supported he realised and is staying at home now. For clearing his debts he sold one portion of the home. His general shop was given for leasing in the village. Now, he is working in the shop as a worker. Now, his family situation is not going well. ❖

Out of Employment

Taking Private Classes to Children

P. Sattaiah (69), he belongs to Gandhinagar Colony of Pochampally village. He is having wife, son, daughter-in-law and grand children. He was a retired teacher. He used to work at Upper Primary School in Pochampally as Teacher. After he got promotion as a Headmaster and transferred to Revanapally Upper Primary School. There he served till his retirement. Though his subject was Maths he taught all subjects to children. When he was in service he started a tutorial at his home. During that time his son and daughter took classes to secondary school children (6-10). Unexpectedly, his daughter died with some health problems. After, the tutorial was stopped. Then, after some days Sattaiah's son joined as teacher at private school in the village. After some years he got married. Sattaiah got best teacher award in Nalgonda district and he retired as head master from Revanapally Upper Primary School. His son got job in urban bank as accountant. He started a tutorial in name of his daughter and is taking classes to secondary school children (6-10) in the village. He encourages children to write the Navodaya entrance test for Navodaya Vidyalaya. Under his training many students got admissions in Navodaya Vidyalaya. At the same time he is looking after his son's children at home. Now, he is spending time with children and family members. ❖

Fish Selling

Shining Livelihoods



Wool Blanket Making

Declining Livelihoods



Story

The Seed of Honesty

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you."

The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today – one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by — still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however... He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil – He so wanted the seed to grow. A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right.

He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful — in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him! When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front.

Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!" When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed – Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. "How could he be the new CEO?" the others said.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead – it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust. So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later..

"Whatever You Give To Life, Life Gives You Back". ❖

‘Yoga’kshemam

*Happy Mental Health! Happy Vision! Happy Girl Child!
Happy Relief from Disasters! Happy Rural Woman!*

*Happy Post! Happy Standards! Happy Statistics! Happy
Information! Happy Animation!*

*Happy Helping! Good Food to All! No Poverty, Please!
Peace and Development through Science! Let us be strong
to resist diseases! Let us be kind and tolerant!*

Many Happy Returns, Amitabh Bachchan! Let us
remember Patel on his birthday – 31 October 2012.

Sandy kills 100, destroys USD 50 Billion, has affected 50+
million; Nilam is kinder a bit!

Yerran Naidu, Rest in Peace!

Transition is the name of the month that has gone by!

Entrepreneurial effort is a mixed bag of failures and
successes. Success builds on the lessons of failures.
These include – entrepreneur needs company and a team
would be in place as early as possible; entrepreneur
should keep trying with ideas, innovations and
approaching investors tirelessly; market accepts small
little new things; co-founders are important; plans and
contingency plans are prerequisite; and one should not
give up too early.

Our existence and happiness is a function of our
relationships. We need to have a framework for them and
we need to operate within the framework.
We need to nurture them with care within
the confines of the framework. We need
to remember that relationship has more
than one being involved. Further, we have
a composite web of multiple relationships and each one
comes with its own rules and norms. We need to
accommodate all these relationships within the framework
of relationship you have.

I gathered during the month - to be happy, we need to be
away from smoke, drink and drugs; we need to have
alternative engagements for some time in a day, in a
week, in a month and in a year; we need to stop
postponing the little things; we need to stop not-so-
constructive criticism; we need not make any excuses and
we need to get going; we need to be ourselves; and we
need to let go control, brooding and resisting changes.

Constant reflection and its articulation help us to evolve.
We need to look at us and size up ourselves every now
and then. We need to have this written down and/or
shared with someone. Reflection would be sharp with eye
for detail, having conceptual clarity supported with reading
and following the developments across, knowing and
accounting the failures, articulating the achievements with
humility and due credit to all those who helped, knowing
strengths, weaknesses, ladders that help and snakes that
come in the way etc. Reflection is always against the
subscribed values and vision of achievement and being.
Reflection would also focus on the processes,
preparation/homework for achieving the vision and
scanning the internal and external environment. Reflection
would also include having a latest ready note on oneself
and its review. Articulation is better if that is punctuated
with examples and models. Our vision and values do get
reflected in our role models, coworkers, and relationships;
and the opportunities and challenges that are being

pursued. Reflection and articulation would include them
too.

Articulation, therefore, teaching, of late has become
dependent on technology. Anthony Pitucco and Stewart
Barr remind us how we are losing touch with the arts of
teaching, as ICT takes over – unfold the idea gradually;
knowing the participants and respond to them, without
giving out the snapshot; improvisation on the spot; and
flexibility for contextualization.

Apart from speaking and writing, another major way of
communication is e-mail. But, we need to follow some
etiquette – have a right subject; be precise and focused
on a single aspect with most important first; seek
response if that is the expectation; make it short and
simple; personalize; present elegantly – font, format etc.;
sign off with care; and do not spam.

We achieve more in a team that gels well, with high
morale and motivation. Happy people achieve more. A
happy leader makes individuals in the team happy. Our
happiness is a function of our emotions, our
engagements, our relationships, meaningful and purpose-
driven living, and sense of achievement.

Of course, this would mean we need to have more time.
We get more time by saving time – do not be online
always – go online 3-4 times a day; work offline as much
as possible; do less and do when it is a must; do not have
tightly scheduled meetings; sleep in
multiple shifts; and do not pack too many
things into that one minute we have. This
way we end up having more ‘time’ for
living pursuing 3S – satyam (truthful),
sivam (useful) and sundaram (in harmony with nature).

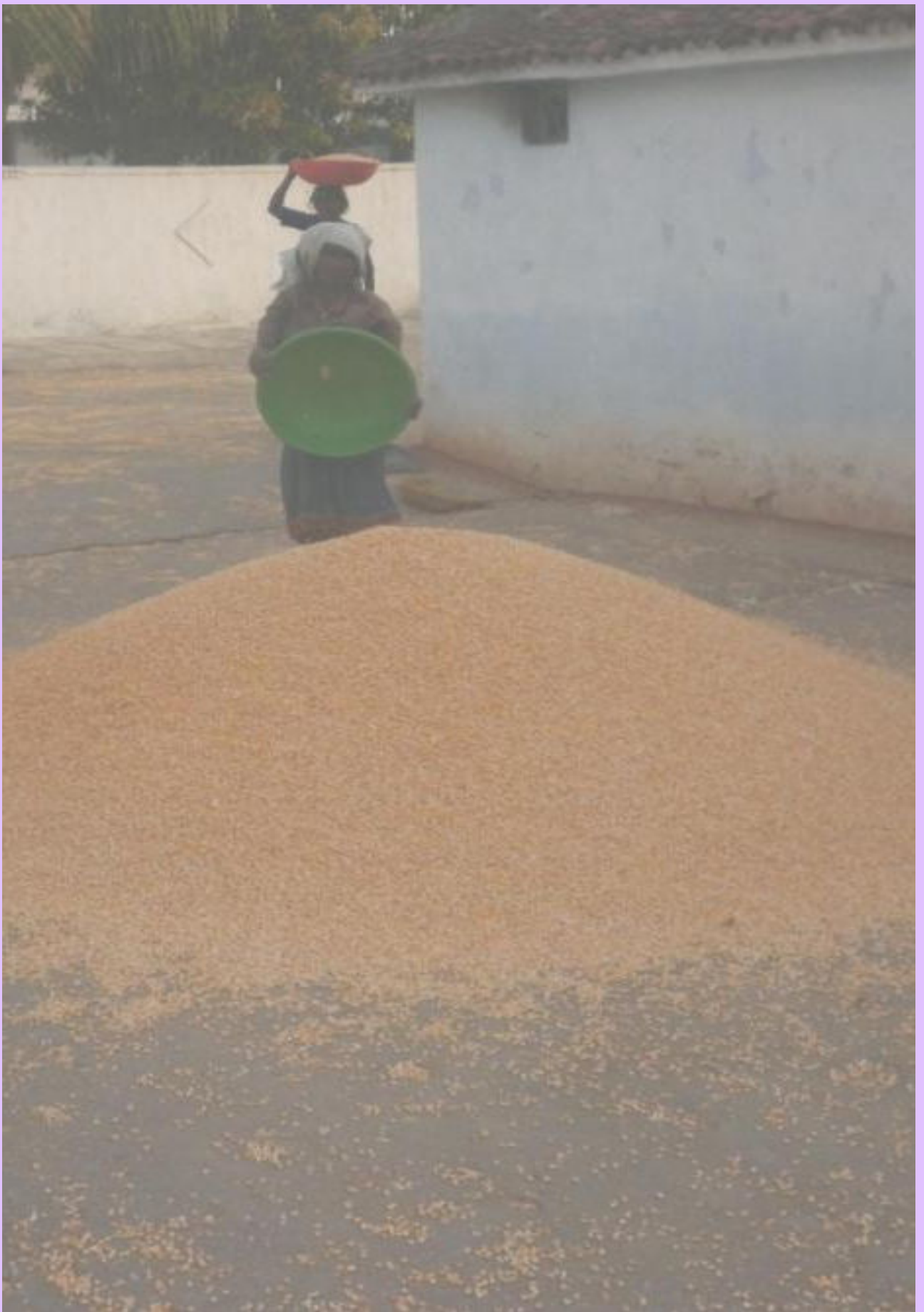
Deepak Chopra informs us – knowing one’s true nature
takes us closer to our true potential; if we need x, we need
to give x out and we get the x back in multiples of what we
have given; we reap what we sow; when we harness the
forces of harmony, joy and love, we create success with
effortless ease; intention and desire take us through the
mechanics of realization; we need to give up the
attachment with the results but not with the efforts towards
the results; and when our purpose of life is fulfilled, we are
filled with ecstasy and bliss.

**We seek ecstasy and bliss in our life of unity amidst
diversity.** We co-exist and our life is fully dependent on
the other life and ‘non-life’. Our life processes are
designed so that we lead a life of least disturbance to the
deeper nature order. If this order is disturbed, it needs to
be restored. This requires living, pursuing and leading 3S
life – satyam (truthful), sivam (useful) and sundaram
(appreciating and co-existing with the beauty of the life,
nature and universe). This is the life of co-existence of the
inner self and universal self. Slowly the increasing joy of
realizing oneness with the infinitely diverse universe takes
over. This is atmavivekaanandayogam.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we
pursue intense truthful useful natural spirited co-
existence! Krishna confirms – the universe is waiting for
this oneness but it is looking for a free soul with this
realization to merge with.

Join us in the world of yoga – for celebration of 3S co-
existence – towards krishnaanubhutyogasiddhi. You will
not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar



livelihoods

Shelter and Enterprise