

RICE LANDRACES CHARACTERIZATION TRAINING FOR FARMER- CONSERVATORS

BACKGROUND

Most biopiracy patents are logically and legally untenable, as they systematically violate the patentability clauses of “novelty” and “prior public knowledge”. This scientific training effort is first of its kind and is a part of the national movement for local sovereignty over biodiversity. It upholds people’s fundamental rights to their resources and knowledge through Community Biodiversity Registers (CBRs). The necessity and value of CBRs are also pitted in the Biodiversity Act 2004, which requires that all components of biodiversity existing in a locality be documented and registered as a legitimate evidence of people’s knowledge and right to use local biodiversity. A special form of CBR to register a significant part of indigenous agrobiodiversity with adequate assessment of important characters is essentially needed in different parts of the country. Conventional CBRs without scientific documentation often creates a huge deal of confusion, facilitating means for MNC’s to misappropriate agrobiodiversity and local knowledge. This training workshop is intended to train conservators/ farmers to create a scientifically valid database in the form of a special Community Biodiversity Registers (CBRs) for rice varieties in order to prevent biopiracy of the heirloom varieties.

AIM

To create a farmer database of their rice varieties, in order to prevent biopiracy of the heirloom varieties; and to empower farmers to maintain the genetic purity of their heirloom rice seeds on-farm.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To enable farmer-conservators to assess and document 52 characteristic descriptors of rice varieties.
- 2) To train farmer-conservators to eliminate the 'off-types' based on selected descriptors in order to maintain genetic purity.

MODULE

Training to be given in **three phases** – at three life history stages of the rice plant, namely:

3 DAYS during the Sowing stage (June): 6-10 days after sowing.

This phase of the training will include a day for methodological introduction and orientation.

5 DAYS around the Flowering stage (August-September): Panicle initiation to milk stage: approx.

5 DAYS around the Harvesting stage (December): Maturity to post-harvest assessments.

Total: 13 days.

RESOURCE PERSON: Dr. Debal Deb, Basudha, Odisha

SUBJECT OF TRAINING

Assessment of 52 rice morphological characteristics/ descriptors, according to INGER and Biodiversity International guidelines

INSTRUMENTS: 4 Hand lenses, 4 measuring tapes, Graph papers, pencils.

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

All trainees will be repeatedly examined and assisted until they attain full capability of rice characterization at the international standard, and qualify as trainers for farmer-conservators.

LOGISTICS:

1. Participants or their NGOs have to bare their own train travel expenses to Odisha thrice in a year
2. Simple food and accommodation at the field station will be provided by OFAI

REGISTRATION FEE: Rs. 400/ day/ person

A certificate will be issued by OFAI and Basudha for each participant on completion of the training.

For more information please contact:

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