



**PPVFRA Participated in the National Conference on “Managing Agro-Biodiversity in North Eastern India 2024 (NCMAN 2024) “organized by Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) in Shillong, Meghalaya from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, October, 2024.**



North-eastern Region of the country is known to harbor tremendous plant and animal biodiversity. The region possesses a diverse climate, varying from tropical to alpine, favorable for the existence of diverse plant species, including wild and cultivated species. Hence, the region is designated as a ‘hot spot’ for biodiversity. ISPGR organized the NCMAN 2024 with broad objectives viz., (i) provide an opportunity to researchers, academicians, policy makers, students and farmers to present their research results, views and suggestions relating to current developments in the area of genetic diversity management (ii) sensitize all the stakeholders for innovative conservation and utilization of the diverse genetic resources of the region for sustainable agriculture and (iii) to deliberate and develop the way forward for genetic resources-led livelihood and nutritional security for resource-poor farmers and consumers.



The NCMAN 2024 was inaugurated by H.E. The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijay Shankar. The inaugural session was presided over by Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, ISPGR. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA along with other distinguished dignitaries was present as the Guest of Honour. Hon'ble Governor in his

inaugural speech highlighted the enormous agro-biodiversity present in the North-eastern States and emphasized the need to create awareness among the general public and the organizations. He stressed upon the need to have an implementable plan for

the agro-biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use. He exhorted the researchers and policy planners alike to come out with a clear road map through the deliberations in the course of the conference. Dr. Mohapatra in his remarks as Guest of Honour, highlighted the immense potential the North Eastern States have as reservoir of plant and animal biodiversity. He further gave insights into the role of PPVFRA in conserving farmers' agro-biodiversity and extending the associated financial benefits to the farming community by citing a few example.



A keynote address covering entire gamut of agro-biodiversity of North Eastern



States and its utilization by Dr. R.S. Paroda was the highlight of the opening day proceedings. Dr. Mohapatra, who chaired this session further delineated the fact that although the region shares only 7.7% of India's geographical area, but it

contributes 21.67% of the national forest cover, 50% (8000 species) of the flowering plants, 39% (7,000 plant species) of higher plants, and 37% (300 species) of the wild edible plants in India. He stressed upon the need for a special effort by way of networking among the institutions and universities in the region for promoting biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use in the region with state-wise action plans.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority participated in NCMAN 2024 and a special session on the sub-theme "Access, Exchange, Benefit Sharing and IPR Systems" was convened at the behest of PPVFRA. Various issues related to biodiversity conservation and its use were discussed in the session with a focus on protection of plant varieties.



In the special session on “Access, Exchange, Benefit Sharing and IPR Systems” on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 which was convened by Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar-General, PPVFRA. The session was co-chaired by Dr. T. Mohapatra and Dr. P.L. Gautam. The lead lecture on Role of PPVFRA in Biodiversity Conservation and Use was delivered by Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar-General, PPVFRA. In his talk, Dr. Agarwal presented the various facets of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), their inception in agriculture, genesis and functions of PPVFRA, its role in conservation of farmers varieties, instances of successful main-streaming of farmers’ varieties, and the future course of actions envisaged by PPVFRA in further facilitating the agro-biodiversity conservation and providing farmers with the access to the markets. The other topics that were covered in this session included:



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- Status and Prospect of GI crops in North-Eastern India by Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-RCNEH, Umiam, Meghalaya
- Commercialization of plant varieties under public research systems by Dr. Praveen Malik, CEO, AgriInnovate, ICAR, New Delhi
- Flagging the issues of animal biodiversity in North Eastern States by Dr. G. Kadirvel, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati, Assam
- Flagging the issues with farmers for adopting agrobiodiversity in local food systems (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim) by Dr. K. Noren Singh, Professor, CPGS-AS, CAU, Umiam, Meghalaya
- Flagging the issues with farmers related to medicinal & aromatic crops by Dr. Mohan Lal, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam
- Issues related with Digital Sequence Information by Dr. Sunil Archak, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi

An exhibition to display the agro-biodiversity of the region was also organized at the occasion of NCMAN 2024.



The session ended with remarks of Co-chairs.

