



ROLE OF WOMEN IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION – JHARKHAND



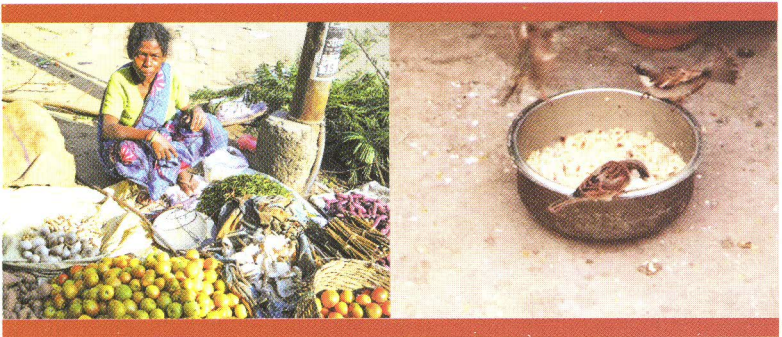
झारखण्ड जैवविविधता बोर्ड

राज्य कार्यक्रम इकाई (India – UNDP Biodiversity Project)

वन भवन, डोरण्डा, राँची - 834002

फोन / फ़ैक्स : 0651-2480655 ई-मेल: jbbranchi@gmail.com

Women play an important role in the conservation and the management of biodiversity and genetic resource. In context to agriculture biodiversity, the activities of women in pre- and post harvesting of the crop and food processing clearly illustrate their key-role in conserving diversity. In animal biodiversity they care for the birds & domestic animals by feeding them as per their needs, tradition and culture.



Women, with their central role in the household in village societies, have invariably been responsible for the food and nutritional needs of their families. They possess a detailed awareness of the species and ecosystems which surround them. In traditional agriculture, Women are involved in almost all activities of farming, right from seed selection to planting, weeding, winnowing, to harvesting and storing the grain. They are often the local educators, passing on traditional knowledge and technologies, like proverbial "grandmother's cures". These may hold the key to many curative plant uses, and acting as traditional birth attendants in many rural societies, where there is no access to "modern" medical facilities. In many cultures,

women have been instrumental in developing sustainable techniques for designing of textiles, clothing, and other valuable forms of traditional cultural expression.



In many communities, women struggle to feed their households. The situation is worse when husbands migrate seeking better opportunities, or are absent for one reason or other. Across Jharkhand, groups of women farmers are turning back to traditional food crops in hopes of better food security for their families, and finding economic independence at the same time



As per their tradition and culture they worship the nature, it plays a vital role in the effort of conserving biodiversity.



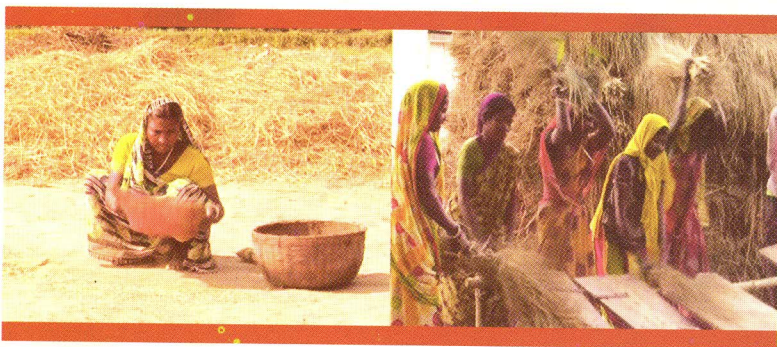
Women in rural areas use fuel wood as the main energy source. Fuel is another important forest product on which households are dependent. The branches of the most of the forest species, the bushes and other wastes are collected and use as fuel by the households in and around forests. The fodder biomasses collected by women from forest and nearby area, contribute significantly in livestock maintenance.



Some of the other non-timber forest products gathered from the forests are soap nut, shikakai, antuwala, gums, honey, seasonal fruits and

masalas, which have high economic value in the nearby urban markets, apart from household usage. Women play a prominent role in collection, processing and sale of these products. The income raised by women is most of the times directly supplements the family food needs.

Important knowledge possessed by women including their use, rights and needs regarding local biodiversity is significant in present scenario. Women's engagement with their natural environment empowers them with a wealth of knowledge and experience, vital for conservation. It has been repeatedly ignored due to gender discrimination. Women's knowledge and experiences have been often excluded from decision making.



The challenge for the next generation is to safeguard biodiversity by paying greater attention to diverse and integrated systems, especially those managed by women who provide food and livelihood security. The maintenance of plant and animal diversity will protect the ability of human being to respond in changing conditions, minimize risk, maintain and enhance crop and livestock production, productivity and sustainable food security



PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN



For more information please contact:

Member Secretary
 Jharkhand Biodiversity Board
 Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-02
 E-mail: jbbranchi@gmail.com
 Telefax: 0651-2480655

Project Coordinator
 State Project Unit (SPU)
 (India – UNDP Biodiversity Project)
 Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-02
 E-mail: Saibal.dey@undp.org

