



BIODIVERSITY News



From The Chairman's Desk

Just as in previous years, this year too the State Biodiversity Board is celebrating the International Biodiversity Day with the principal objective of generating awareness of the importance of our natural bioresources and the consequent need for their documentation and conservation. Simultaneously, the Board is pleased to incorporate the 'Biodiversity News' for its new website, which will be a regular feature. The theme of this year is the 'Invasive Alien Species' which need to be discussed in its proper perspective and not merely as invaders to our local floral and fauna. Along with the gradual migration of bio-components to the subcontinent through natural means or human intervention, these species components have gradually generated a different ecosystem consisting of different plants and animals. Alien species which have become part of our biosphere through natural migration need to be tackled with discretion. Introduction through human intervention include the variety of crops such as a number of Solanaceous species, which have become staple crops in this country. Moreover, the introduction of high yielding variety to meet our food shortage have led to extinction of the large number of our germplasm resources such as rice, specially in this State. As such, in order to avoid such possibilities in future, proper care should be taken to ensure the maintenance of the smaller niches of our local wild varieties which, as is well known contribute to the valuable gene pool resources in our biosphere.

International Biological Diversity Day Observation by West Bengal Biodiversity Board on 22nd May '09



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 MAY 2009

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Fourth time since the West Bengal Biodiversity Board started functioning in 2005, the International Day for Biological Diversity is being observed. The Theme that marks this year's celebration worldwide is 'Invasive Alien Species' as designated by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Board has specially invited Prof. T. J. Pandian, Madurai Kamaraj University and Dr. P. S. Ahuja, Institute of Himalayan Biore-source Technology for delivering lectures on the said issue which shall guide the Board to take initiatives and fix priorities in combating the threats posed. The day will also see the formal release of some important publications of the Board. Furthermore, to be highlighted is the progress of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) exercise in the State to be elaborated by the coordinators and the volunteers.



PBR exercise at Paschimpara



PBR exercise at Jankapur

Different stages in the People's Biodiversity Register preparation exercise- Interview of local knowledgeable people & Compilation of the collected information

- The West Bengal Biodiversity Board functions for ensuring proper implementation of related national and state legislations, which include -
- ✿ Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). Till date, 20 BMCs have been constituted in the State, 17 at Panchayat Samiti level and 3 at Municipality level covering 11 districts of West Bengal.
 - ✿ Initiating and monitoring People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) preparation activities through the constituted BMCs as well as, through projects granted to different interested organizations and institutions. Till date, PBR activities have been initiated at 48 Gram Panchayats and 5 Municipalities in the State covering 14 districts of West Bengal. Initiating and guiding Post PBR activities in the form of conservation initiatives, entrepreneurship development with sustainable biological resources, biological resource management and other such activities.
 - ✿ Identification and declaration of Heritage Sites and Sacred Groves. The Board has taken the initiative to declare the Kanakdurga Temple area in Chilkigarh under the district Paschim Medinipur District as one such Biological Heritage Site with recommended conservation measures.
 - ✿ The Board has undertaken documentation programme for preparing a digitised annotated bibliography on published literature on biodiversity of West Bengal. The Board is responsible for undertaking regulatory activities according to the existing legislations. It also works towards arranging awareness programmes on biodiversity for school, college, university students, common people and others through extension programmes and publications.