



# Community-based Biodiversity Management South Asia (CBM SA) Programme

Strengthening Livelihoods and Building Resilience to Climate Change in Rural Communities



The Community-based Biodiversity Management South Asia (CBM SA) Programme is a regional initiative for conservation of agricultural biodiversity and livelihoods enhancement implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The programme capitalizes on and promotes regional experiences, efforts, synergies and commitments to take urgent actions for sustainable management of genetic resources on farm. The programme works towards making resource poor farming communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

South Asian countries are rapidly industrialising and developing into a market economy. The role of agriculture in economic development is decreasing. While some sectors of the society are benefiting, others like the millions of rural farmers in the region are at risk of being left behind.

Agricultural production environments in South Asian countries are largely subsistence-oriented and very dependent on the climatic conditions. Any changes in climate are likely to affect agricultural production and risk peoples' livelihood.

CBM practices such as diversity fairs, community seed banks, and CBM trust funds empower communities to manage and maintain high



Coverage of CBM SA programme

agricultural biodiversity on-farm and the knowledge associated with it. From this portfolio, farmers can choose crops varieties and livestock breeds as per their needs and increase their resilience in the face of changing climate.

The programme was initiated as a response to the recommendations from the “Regional Consultation and Planning Workshop” held from 16-17 April 2008 in Nepal. The programme is regionally coordinated by a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) based at Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), with UBINIG (Bangladesh), ANTHRA (India), LI-BIRD (Nepal) and Green Movement of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) coordinating their respective country programmes.

## Development Goal

- To enhance biodiversity based livelihood security of local communities in South Asia.

## Immediate Objectives

- To increase productivity of biodiversity based production systems of poor farmers for improved livelihoods and their resilience to climate change.
- To strengthen capacity of farming communities to conserve, utilize and benefit from agricultural biodiversity and protect their rights on genetic resources.



Home Garden of Nepal.

Photo: Lal Kumar Jirel/LI-BIRD Photo Bank



Photo: Sajal Sthapit/LI-BIRD

Community seed bank of Bangladesh.

## Implementing Principles

1. Community-led initiatives and the community are the agents of change recognising local communities' rights for self-determination in the management of their genetic resources.
2. Communities are engaged in biodiversity management and use biodiversity conservation for enhancing their livelihoods.
3. Build on local knowledge and innovations.
4. Enabling local communities to take lead and actively engage in participatory decision making process.
5. Achieve conservation through sustainable utilization.
6. Enhance ecosystem services through biodiversity management.
7. Biodiversity conservation is a strategy to cope with impacts of changing climate.

## Key Elements of the Programme

Through consultation meetings, the partner organizations have identified and agreed to the following key elements for CBM SA programme.

|     |                                                                                                                    |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Understanding and strengthening seed systems, including seed production and distribution and community seed banks. |
| 2.  | Exchange of seeds and genetic resources.                                                                           |
| 3.  | Biodiversity conservation through value addition and marketing.                                                    |
| 4.  | Biodiversity conservation through genetic enhancement of socio-economic traits.                                    |
| 5.  | Using biodiversity conservation for climate change adaptation.                                                     |
| 6.  | Working with and strengthening farmers' organizations and community institutions.                                  |
| 7.  | Networking of national, local and grassroots organizations engaged in agricultural biodiversity conservation.      |
| 8.  | Policy research and advocacy.                                                                                      |
| 9.  | Documentation, sharing and learning of experiences.                                                                |
| 10. | Capacity building of CBM SA partner organizations.                                                                 |



Photo: Rachana Devkota / LI-BIRD

Deccani sheep of India.

## Partnership and Implementation Modalities

The projects are country-led, i.e., they are developed and implemented by coordinating organizations in each country in partnership with farming communities and other stakeholders. A regional programme coordination mechanism supports and strengthens the capacity of country programme.

## Programme Partners

UBINIG, Bangladesh  
ANTHRA, India  
LI-BIRD, Nepal and  
Green Movement of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

## Funded by

The Development Fund, Norway with support from Norad.

For more information, contact:

**The CBM SA Regional Coordination Unit**

LI-BIRD, PO Box 324, Pokhara, Nepal

[www.cbmsouthasia.net](http://www.cbmsouthasia.net); [info@cbmsouthasia.net](mailto:info@cbmsouthasia.net)

**Design:** Mahesh Shrestha/LI-BIRD

**Cover Photo:** Diversity from home garden of Sri Lanka, Abishkar Subedi/LI-BIRD Photo Bank