

Regional Capacity Building Training Programme on Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB)

Community-based Biodiversity Management South Asia Programme

29th Oct-3rd Nov 2009, Pokhara, Nepal

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Community-based Biodiversity Management South Asia (CBM-SA) is a regional programme to capitalise on and promote regional experiences, efforts, synergy and commitment to take urgent actions for a sustainable management of genetic resources and developing climate change resilience leading to secured livelihoods of millions of resource poor farmers of the region. Currently partners from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tibet, China have been involved in regional programme. Mutual learning and capacity building with cross fertilization of ideas and experiences, community empowerment, grassroots research and “evidence based” policy work form the basis of the CBM SA programme. In this context, new innovations and opportunities to further strengthen the CBM approach like Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) has been anticipated to enhance the conservation of agrobiodiversity of South Asian region in the long run.

This regional PPB training is a part of the CBM-SA programme with the objective to build the relevant country programme capacity to manage the agrobiodiversity through breeding approach. The experiences and learning from this training programme will guide to formulate and design country specific PPB programmes.

PROGRAMME TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The participants include CBM SA country partners' staffs who are working in the capacity of senior researchers, programme leaders and managers. They are bringing diverse working experiences in different crop improvement programmes and germplasm management.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- * The programme aims to exchange experiences and to enhance understanding of effective approaches towards the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through breeding approach.
- * To provide contemporary framework on Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) for crop improvement and biodiversity management in the context of food security and climate change.
- * To provide step wise methodologies, processes and tools on PPB approach and provide in-depth learning opportunities to the participants.
- * To develop a detail country specific activity plan for PPB integrating with on-going CBM country programmes.



- * To develop training course-curriculum for wider sharing and dissemination purposes.

PROGRAMME METHODS

The training course provides an opportunity to learn in a multidisciplinary team, interactive and experience-based setting, it facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences through lectures, case studies, group discussion, assignments, participatory videos and field study.

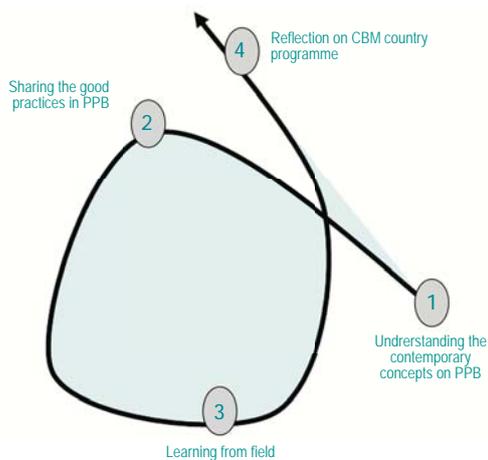


Fig 1: Programme organization and learning process

PROGRAMME KEY COMPONENTS AND LEARNING PROCESS

An action learning process has been envisioned in the programme to continually strengthen the CBM approach (Fig 1). To achieve this goal, programme has been divided into the following four interlinked components.

Component 1. Contemporary concepts on PPB

This session will deal with the contemporary approaches, concepts and key issues underlying with plant breeding. Here participants and the facilitators will share their experiences and try to understand the theoretical aspects as well as hands on experiences, tools and techniques of PPB. Participants and resource persons will jointly explore on how PPB is differ from the conventional breeding programme and its effectiveness to empower farming communities that effectively manage the community genetic resources and fulfilling their choices in the context of enabling food security and building climate change resilience. There will be interesting lecture on policy issues related with seeds and breeding activities. Finally participants will learn an overview principles, step by step methods and tools on PPB.

Component 2: Sharing the good practices on PPB

It is obvious that participants are always eager to know the impact of new methodologies. So, in this session participants will be exposed to various ground based working experiences from major areas of the world where PPB has been evolved. This includes experiences of Nepal, Vietnam and Central-American countries. Very interesting to all, PPB farmers of Nepal will present their learning and results where participants can relate their own working scenario.



Component 3: Learning PPB from the field

This session is unique opportunity for participants to observe and interact with PPB farmers' who have been engaged in programme since 1998. Participants can practice tools and techniques with experienced farmers that learned during the training. This will provide practical knowledge and in-depth understanding on PPB. Opportunities will be provided to the participants for the direct observation and selection of different PPB crossing lines together with farmers. Each group will also review and analyze their observation of field. At the end of session, each group will incorporate their field experiences to improvise their own country PPB programmes and share on plenary forum.

Component 4: Reflections in project/organizational annual plan

This course will conclude with the development of a country wise action plan/proposal to mainstream PPB in each CBM country programme, which integrate key course topics and experiences gained in the process and relate them to the reality of the participants' working environment.

PROGRAMME FOLLOW UP AND REFLECTION OF LEARNING

After accomplishing the training programme each trained participant is expected to play an active role as a resource person on PPB program implementation in each CBM countries. To ensure implementation of PPB in each country, CBM SA will allocate minimum budget required to implement the actions integrating with their

own CBM country annual budget plan. The progress on the PPB activities will be shared during CBM SA Annual Review and Planning Meeting, as well as through various monitoring tools.

PROGRAMME LOGISTICS AND VENUE

All the required training expenses including travel, lodging and food for the participants and fee for the resource persons has been arranged by CBM SA programme with the funding support from Development Fund, Norway. The programme will be organised in Hotel Pokhara Grande, Pokhara, Nepal.

Pokhara, one of the major touristic city of Nepal lies 3,500 feet above sea level and 200 Km NW of Kathmandu. The smooth and harmonious blend of natural beauty and cultural attractions make this place as a unique city. It is only 25 minutes flight and 6 hours drive from Kathmandu. It will be pleasantly cool about 9 to 21°C during November in Pokhara.



OUR PROGRAMME PARTNERS



FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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