

The Conceptual paper on the study of Invasive Alien Plant Species, Pilot Project, Project Code 15-0P-07

Rationale

The pilot project on the study of the invasive alien plant species was formulated in the year April 2008 for a period of one year. The main objective of the pilot project study was to study the potential threat to biodiversity by invasive alien plants.

During the first phase public awareness was raised through exhibition on two major occasions in Thimphu during the Centenary Coronation Celebration for 7 days and at Tsirang coinciding with the biodiversity fair attended by farmers from 12 blocks/geogs for a day. The collection of herbarium specimen of the invasive plants was very successful and still going on. The inception workshop for the stakeholders was conducted in Serbithang to draw up preventive and control measures with presentation and discussion on the cross-cutting issues involving the Renewable Natural Resources Sector (RNR). The discussions were mainly focused on the current gap, actions required and the responsible/lead agencies to look into policy, research needs, awareness, education, management and control. The fielding of an external consultant is under way and upon arrival of the consultant, proper methodologies for conducting the national inventory on invasive alien plants will be applied and tested in the field. The literature search is almost complete and our findings would be analyzed and classified according to the invasive nature of the plants. Study visit to Thailand was conducted for period of 13 days to learn from the regional experience and the mitigation measures.

We would be in a position to share the following knowledge with the partner countries and they are:

Inventory & Documentation

1. Field visit to pilot sites.
2. Demonstration on appropriate methodologies for conducting the inventory.

Capacity Development

1. Sharing of skills and experiences on herbarium specimen collection and cataloguing/documentation.
2. Plant identification.
3. Approaches to public education and awareness raising.
4. Data field.

Policy and stakeholder linkage

1. Sharing information on refining policies with relevance to invasive alien plants, eg Biodiversity act, Seed act, Food act etc.
2. Organizational arrangement and institutional linkage among biodiversity stake holders (integrated work plan with the biodiversity stake holders)

Sharing of information on on-going research and management

1. Visit to research centers to learn and share experiences on on-going research, case studies on selected plant species.
2. Practical demonstration on some control measures/mitigation (understanding biological control, manual etc.)

3. Quarantine procedures on Invasive plants.

The major activities in the II phase would be:

1. Training of Researchers/Quarantine officials/Extension staff on IAS
2. Conduct National Inventory of the IAS
3. Refine long term policy development based on the survey (scientific evidence)
4. Case study on prioritized IAS
5. Capacity building of the staff
6. Building regional linkage with in South Asia (sharing expertise)

Clips from the inception workshop



Workshop participants held during December 2008 at Serbithang

Group work in progress during inception workshop at serbithang

Clips from BBS

Towards preserving genetic diversity



February 22: Genetic diversity is an important heritage. To preserve and maintain crop diversity in the Kingdom, a daylong biodiversity fair was organized in Tsirang on Friday, February 20.

About 40 farmers from the 12 geogs in Tsirang participated in the biodiversity fair. The farmers displayed a variety of crops grown in their field from seeds to vegetables. Singay Dorji is the Biodiversity Officer with the National Biodiversity Centre in Serbithang, Thimphu. He said the fair was organized to create awareness on the importance of crop biodiversity.

The fair was also organized to provide a platform where farmers can exchange seeds and acquire seeds and information for conservation at the Gene Bank in Serbithang.

It was also meant to educate the farmers on invasive alien plant species. Invasive alien plant species have the potential to replace native species and alter functions and structures of the natural ecosystem.

Prizes were awarded to the farmers who had maximum number of crops and crop varieties. Farmers who grow rare crop varieties were also given prizes. This is done to encourage and recognize the efforts of the farmers in conserving the biodiversity.

Clips from the biodiversity fair at Tsirang



Invasive Alien Plants Species herbarium specimen on display at the fair in Tsirang



Poster of Invasive Alien Plants Species on display at the fair in Tsirang
Clips from the BAFRA Training Workshop at Thimphu



Dr. Norbert Maczey consultant from CABI presenting on the Invasive Alien Species to the BAFRA inspectors

Executive Director Karma Dorji and Dr. Norbet of CABI consultant with the BAFRA Inspectors

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