



Training

on

“PILOT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR THE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMCS) IN MAHARASHTRA”



Organised by
**EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora),
Botanical Survey of India**
&
Western Regional Centre, Pune
In association with
Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board



21ST - 23RD JANUARY 2025



VENUE

Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

REPORT ON THE

“PILOT CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT”

DURATION:

FROM 21ST JANUARY 2025 TO 23RD JANUARY 2025

VENUE:

**TIPAGAD SABHAGRUH,
OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST,
GADCHIROLI.**

ORGANIZED BY:

EIACP PC-RP ON BIODIVERSITY (FLORA)

AND

**BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN REGION CENTRE, PUNE**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

MAHARASHTRA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, NAGPUR

JANUARY 2025

OBJECTIVE:

The programme aimed to enhance the understanding of biodiversity conservation and management among stakeholders specifically BMCs, with a focus on Biodiversity Act 2002, Documentation of PBR, Access Benefit Sharing.

Programme Highlights:

Day 1: 21st January 2025

- **Registration of Participants:** 10:00-11:00
- **Inaugural Session:**
 - **Time:** 11:10 AM - 12:00 AM
 - **Topic:** Programme Overview and Objectives

The inaugural session was begun one and half hour late due to absence of participants. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by dignitaries. Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forest, Gadchiroli was present as a chairman of the inaugural session. Mrs. Rupali Sawant, Divisional Forest Officer, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Nagpur introduced the programme and talked about objectives and rationale behind organization of capacity building programme. Dr. A. Benniamin, Scientist F and Head, Botanical Survey of India, Western Region Centre, Pune spoke about the partner organizations and their assistance in organizing this workshop. Dr. S. Sivabala, Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Nagpur interacted with participants and told them the importance of biodiversity conservation and its benefits. He also shed light on the Biodiversity Act 2002. Dr. Mayur Kamble, Scientist E, Botanical Survey of India, Western Region Centre, Pune proposed vote of thanks. The inaugural session was compered by Dr. Rahul Raut, Assistant Programme Officer, MSBB, Nagpur.

- **Technical Session 1:**
 - **Time:** 12:00 AM - 01:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Flora in India
 - **Speakers:**
 - 1. **Dr. Mayur Kamble, Scientist E**, Botanical Survey of India, Western Region Centre, Pune.

In the first technical session on "Flora in India," Dr. Mayur Kamble delivered an insightful lecture on the significance of multi-cropping and the cultivation of medicinal plants, highlighting their commercial importance. He emphasized that multi-cropping, a farming practice involving the cultivation of two or more crops simultaneously in the same field, is an effective method for improving soil health, increasing biodiversity, and maximizing yields. This practice not only enhances the productivity of

agricultural lands but also minimizes the risks associated with monoculture farming, such as pest outbreaks and soil degradation. Dr. Kamble also discussed the growing demand for medicinal plants due to their increasing use in pharmaceuticals, traditional medicine, and wellness industries. India, with its rich biodiversity, has an abundance of medicinal plants, many of which are underutilized or facing threats due to over-harvesting and habitat loss. He highlighted the potential for cultivating these plants on a commercial scale, providing economic benefits to farmers while also contributing to the conservation of native plant species. The cultivation of medicinal plants, such as Aloe Vera, Ashwagandha, and Tulsi, can offer a sustainable livelihood to rural communities while meeting the needs of the growing global market for herbal products. Dr. Kamble concluded by advocating for the integration of traditional knowledge with modern agricultural practices to foster a sustainable future for both farmers and the environment.

- **Technical Session 2:**

- **Time:** 01:00 AM - 02:00 PM

- **Topic:** Introduction to Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- **Speakers:** Shri. Janardhan Kosare, Field Expert.

- Shri. Janardhan Kosare, a local resource person, delivered an insightful lecture on the Biological Diversity Act of 2002. He began by tracing the historical development of the Act, explaining its significance in the context of India's role in global biodiversity conservation. Shri. Kosare elaborated on India's participation in international conventions and treaties aimed at preserving biological diversity. He emphasized the importance of the Biological Diversity Act in safeguarding the country's rich and diverse flora and fauna. The lecture also focused on the mechanisms and processes outlined in the Act, including the roles of various stakeholders involved in its implementation. Shri. Kosare highlighted the role of local biodiversity management committees, the National Biodiversity Authority, and other agencies in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. His discussion provided a comprehensive understanding of how the Act contributes to both environmental protection and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from biological resources.

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Lunch Break: 02:00PM - 03:00PM

Technical Session 3:

- **Time:** 03:00 AM - 04:00 PM
- **Topic:** Access Benefit Sharing under Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- **Speakers:** **Shri. Saduram Madavi, Field Expert.**
- Shri Saduram Madavi delivered an insightful lecture on *Access Benefit Sharing* (ABS), emphasizing its legal framework and the importance of local medicinal plants in the context of sustainable use and conservation. He highlighted the global and national provisions of ABS, particularly focusing on how these laws ensure that benefits derived from the use of biological resources are fairly shared with indigenous communities and local stakeholders. A significant portion of the lecture was dedicated to explaining the role of local medicinal plants, which form an essential part of traditional knowledge and healthcare systems. Shri Madavi elaborated on how these plants, which are often endemic to specific regions, are invaluable not only for their therapeutic potential but also for their contribution to the local economy and cultural heritage. Furthermore, Shri Madavi discussed the concept of the *Certificate of Origin* (COO) for cultivated medicinal plants, an essential legal document required to ensure transparency in the sourcing of plant material. This certificate guarantees that the plants are sourced responsibly, and that the benefits are shared equitably with the local communities or countries of origin. He emphasized the need for strict adherence to these protocols to promote ethical practices and prevent exploitation. Overall, the lecture provided an in-depth understanding of ABS regulations and the crucial role they play in preserving biodiversity while promoting fair and equitable trade practices, particularly in the field of traditional medicine.
- **General Discussion:**
- **Time:** 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- The organizing committee conducted a fruitful general discussion with participants, focusing on two key aspects: awareness of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the critical role of Gram Sabhas in conserving local biodiversity. The session emphasized how the Biological Diversity Act mandates the conservation of biological resources, knowledge, and cultural practices, urging stakeholders to understand and comply with its provisions. Participants were also encouraged to engage with their respective Gram Sabhas to play an active role in local biodiversity conservation efforts, which are crucial for maintaining ecological balance.
- Additionally, the committee addressed logistical concerns raised by the participants, particularly the issue of mobility. Understanding the challenges posed by transportation, the organizers collaborated with participants to brainstorm possible solutions, ensuring smoother mobility

for attendees. By prioritizing the convenience of participants, the organizers aimed to enhance the overall experience and engagement of all involved, ensuring that the focus remained on the essential discussions and outcomes of the event.

Day 2: 22nd January 2025

- **Technical Session 4:**
 - **Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Fauna in India
 - **Speakers:** Shri. Milind Umare
- Shri. Milind Umare, a well-known local reporter and researcher, delivered an insightful talk on the diverse fauna of India, highlighting the intricate relationship between wildlife and the cultural practices of various tribal communities. His presentation focused on the significant role tribal cultures play in preserving not just fauna but also flora in India. Drawing from his extensive fieldwork and research, Shri. Umare emphasized how tribal knowledge and traditional practices have contributed to the conservation of ecosystems, often in harmony with nature. He shared examples of how tribal communities have long recognized the importance of sustainable living, relying on indigenous methods of farming, hunting, and gathering that respect the delicate balance of the environment. These practices, often passed down through generations, have helped safeguard both endangered species and vital plant species. Shri. Umare also stressed the need to integrate indigenous wisdom with modern conservation efforts to create more effective, community-based solutions for wildlife protection. His talk was a reminder of how deeply interconnected human culture and biodiversity are, and how the preservation of one can lead to the protection of the other.
- **Technical Session 5:**
 - **Time:** 12:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Fauna in India
 - **Speakers:** **Shri. Netaji Anpatrawar**
- Shri. Anpatrawar of Gondwana Herbs delivered an insightful talk on the importance of locally available medicinal plants and their therapeutic potential in treating various diseases. He emphasized the rich biodiversity of indigenous flora and highlighted how these plants can offer valuable solutions to a range of health issues. Dr. Anpatrawar also encouraged the participants to explore the cultivation of medicinal plants as a sustainable and profitable venture, emphasizing the growing demand in both domestic and international markets. He stressed the importance of supporting the commercial trade of these plants to boost local economies while also ensuring their conservation. Furthermore, he shared the ongoing activities and initiatives of Gondwana Herbs, which focuses on the promotion of

medicinal plant cultivation, research, and sustainable practices. Dr. Anpatrawar's presentation was a call to action for both conservationists and entrepreneurs to engage with the local plant resources in a manner that benefits both health and economic growth.

- **Technical Session 6:**
 - **Time:** 01:00 AM - 02:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Formulation of Biodiversity Management Committee
 - **Speakers:** **Shri. Janardhan Kosare, Field Expert.**
- Shri. Janardhan Kosare, in his discussion, elaborated on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, specifically focusing on the formulation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the Gram Panchayat level. According to the Act, BMCs are responsible for promoting conservation and sustainable use of biological resources within their jurisdiction. These committees are typically established at the grassroots level to facilitate local involvement in biodiversity management and to ensure that the benefits arising from the use of biological resources are fairly shared with the communities.
- The structure of a BMC includes various members, often consisting of local stakeholders such as Panchayat members, representatives from local communities, environmental experts, and other relevant individuals who possess knowledge about the local biodiversity. The composition of the members is designed to ensure a diverse and inclusive approach to biodiversity management, involving both experts and community representatives.
- Shri. Kosare also highlighted the importance of general meetings of the BMCs, which serve as platforms for discussing and addressing local biodiversity issues, formulating strategies for conservation, and reviewing the financial and operational aspects of the committee. These meetings ensure transparency and active community participation in decision-making processes.
- Furthermore, BMCs are mandated to maintain accounts, ensuring that any funds received for biodiversity conservation activities are utilized effectively and are subject to audits. This provision aims to enhance accountability and ensure that the financial resources allocated for biodiversity management are used in a manner that benefits the local communities and contributes to the long-term conservation of biodiversity.
- **Lunch Break:** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

- **Technical Session 7:**
 - **Time:** 03:00 AM - 04:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Role and Functions of Biodiversity Management Committee
 - **Speakers:** **Shri. Janardhan Kosare, Field Expert. And Mrs. Rupalai Sawant**
 - Shri. Janardhan Kosare recently delivered an insightful talk on the role and functions of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) at the Gram Panchayat level. He highlighted the critical role that BMCs play in ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at the grassroots level. He emphasized that these committees are pivotal in creating awareness among local communities about the importance of biodiversity and its direct link to their livelihoods and well-being. Shri. Kosare further elaborated on the process of preparing a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), underscoring its importance in guiding local governance and policy decisions. The BMP serves as a comprehensive framework that helps communities identify and conserve valuable local biodiversity, while also ensuring its sustainable utilization. He stressed that such plans are essential for balancing development needs with the protection of natural resources, thereby contributing to sustainable development. This talk provided valuable insights into how decentralized governance can contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of environmentally conscious development at the local level.
 - **Technical Session 8:**
 - **Time:** 04:00 AM - 05:00 PM
 - **Topic:** Documenting and Maintaining Peoples Biodiversity Register
 - **Speakers:** **Shri. Saduram Madavi, Field Expert and Mr.Rahul**
 - Shri. Saduram Madavi conducted an engaging interactive session on the documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR). The session provided participants with hands-on experience through activity-based practical exercises, focusing on the accurate documentation processes involved in creating a PBR. Shri. Madavi shared real-world examples to illustrate the various methodologies for recording local biodiversity knowledge, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and detailed documentation for conservation efforts. He also highlighted the role of the Technical Support Group (TSG) in assisting the documentation process, providing expert guidance, and ensuring the accuracy and sustainability of the PBR. Through this session, participants gained valuable insights into the vital role PBR plays in preserving biodiversity at the grassroots level.
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Day 3: 23rd January 2025

- **Technical Session 9:**

- **Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- **Topic:** Coordination between BMCs and other local bodies.

- **Speaker:** Shri. Saduram Madavi and Shri. Janardhan Kosare.

- A collective talk was delivered by two resource persons on the importance of coordinating local bodies on administrative matters, with a particular focus on the role of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). The speakers emphasized how BMCs can enhance their functioning by establishing strong coordination with local bodies for technical and knowledge support. This collaboration is crucial for the documentation and validation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR), which serve as an important tool in conserving local biodiversity. The resource persons outlined various avenues through which local bodies can assist BMCs, including offering technical expertise on biodiversity issues, providing support for the preparation of PBRs, and ensuring the accuracy of the information included. They also highlighted the importance of addressing administrative matters such as BMC accounts, validation processes, and the overall functioning of these committees. By fostering a deeper collaboration between local bodies and BMCs, the process of biodiversity management can become more effective and inclusive, ensuring that both technical and administrative requirements are met efficiently.

- **Feedback Session:**

- **Time:** 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

- The three-day capacity-building program received positive feedback from participants, who appreciated the comprehensive approach and interactive nature of the sessions. Many expressed how the workshop enhanced their knowledge and skills, providing valuable insights into key topics. The facilitators' expertise and engaging delivery style were frequently mentioned as highlights, with participants noting that the content was not only informative but also highly applicable to their work. Several attendees highlighted the well-organized structure of the event, from the seamless registration process to the well-curated sessions that fostered learning and networking. Overall, the workshop was deemed a success, with many participants indicating that they felt more empowered and equipped to apply the newly acquired knowledge in their professional roles.

- **Valedictory Session:**

- **Time:** 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

- The valedictory session of the event was chaired by Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forest, Gadchiroli, and graced by the presence of key dignitaries including Mr. Patole, DFO Gadchiroli, Mr. Harod, DFO Gadchiroli, and Dr. Mayur Kamble, Scientist E at the Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune. The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. A. Benniamin, Scientist F and Head of the Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune.
- As a gesture of appreciation for their active participation, all attendees were awarded participation certificates. In addition, a photograph of a Banyan tree was presented to each participant as a token of love, symbolizing the event's commitment to the preservation of nature and the importance of biodiversity conservation. The valedictory session marked a successful and meaningful conclusion to the event, reflecting the collaborative efforts in fostering knowledge and awareness among the participants.

- **Lunch Break: 1:30pm – 2:30 pm**

- **Local Field Visit:**

- **Time:** 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

- A field visit was organized to Waghala village as part of the three-day capacity building workshop, aimed at enhancing awareness and knowledge of local conservation initiatives. The participants had the opportunity to engage in a fruitful interaction with the Ex. Chairman of the Bird Conservation Committee at Waghala, who shared valuable insights on the ongoing conservation efforts in the village. Dr. Kahalkar, a professor from the Science College of Armori, provided in-depth information about the plant diversity in Waghala village, highlighting the region's rich botanical heritage. The Sarpanch of the village was also present at the event, offering local perspectives on community-based conservation practices. To acknowledge the contributions of the key individuals, Dr. Kahalkar, the Sarpanch, and the Ex. Chairman were felicitated with mementos during the visit. This event marked the conclusion of the three-day workshop, leaving participants with an enhanced understanding of conservation and biodiversity in the region.

Outcomes:

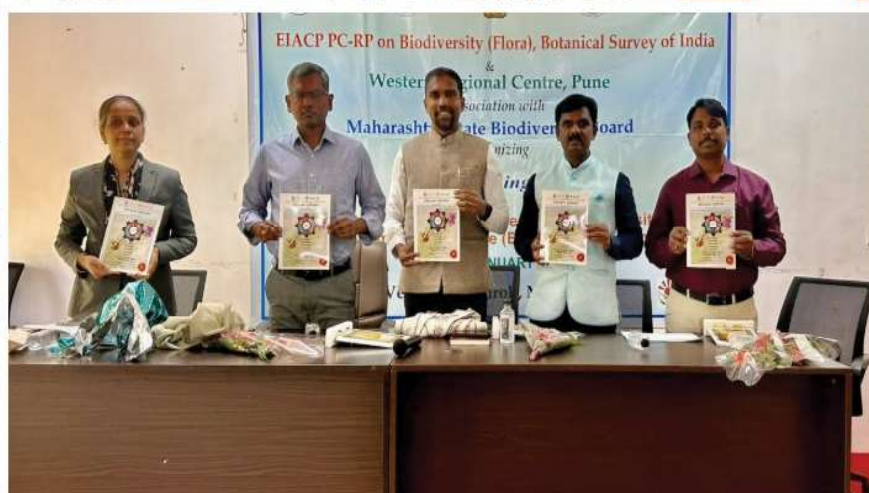
1. Improved awareness of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and its implementation strategies.
2. Enhanced capacity to create and maintain People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).
3. Strengthened collaboration between stakeholders for biodiversity conservation in Gadchiroli district.
4. Development of action plans to integrate biodiversity management with local livelihoods.

Conclusion:

The programme successfully built foundational capacities and promoted sustainable practices for biodiversity conservation. Participants expressed keen interest in continuing such initiatives to address the environmental and livelihood challenges.







INAUGURAL OF PILOT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR BMCS AT GADCHIROLI, MAHARASHTRA ON 21-01-2025.



FIRST DAY PROGRAMME



SECOND DAY PROGRAMME



SECOND DAY PROGRAMME



THIRD DAY PROGRAMME



LOCAL FIELD VISIT



FEED BACK FROM PARTICIPANTS



VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF THE TRAINING



DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES WITH MEMONTOES TO THE BMCs MEMBER



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION TO THE PARTICIPANTS





GROUP PHOTO AT GADCHIROLI FOREST OFFICE, GADCHIROLI



GROUP PHOTO DURING LOCAL FIELD TOUR





LOCAL FIELD TRIP



**भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण
पश्चिमी क्षेत्रीय केंद्र, पुणे**

प्रमाणपत्र

यह प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि श्री विलास देवराव उसेंडी ने भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण, पुणे द्वारा महाराष्ट्र राज्य जैवविविधता बोर्ड के सहयोग से आयोजित *"Pilot capacity building program for BMCs in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra"* कार्यक्रम में 21 से 23 जनवरी 2025 तक भाग लिया है।

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EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora), Botanical Survey of India

&

Western Regional Centre, Pune

In association with

Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board

Organizing

Training

on

**Pilot Capacity Programme for the Biodiversity
Management Committee (BMCs) in Maharashtra**

21st - 23rd JANUARY 2025

Venue: Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

