



THE DEVELOPMENT FUND
UTVIRILUSPONERT • EL FONDO DE DESARROLLO

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 conservation for livelihoods programme 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. The programme works towards making resource poor farming communities more resilient to the impacts 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 subsistence-oriented and very dependent on the climatic conditions. Any changes in the climate are likely to affect agricultural production and risk their livelihoods.

CBM practices such as diversity fairs, community seed banks, and CBM trust funds empower communities to manage and maintain high agricultural biodiversity on-farm and the knowledge associated with



Districts covered by the CBM-SA Programme

them. 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 Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) with UBINIG (Bangladesh), Anthra and GREEN Foundation (India), LI-BIRD (Nepal) and Green Movement of 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.



Photo: Sajal Sthapit/LI-BIRD

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.



Photo: Abishkar Subedi/LI-BIRD

Key Elements of the Programme

Through consultation meetings, the partner organizations have identified and agreed to the following key elements of the 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.	Policy research and advocacy.
4.	Documentation, sharing and learning of experiences.
5.	Biodiversity conservation through value addition and marketing.
6.	Biodiversity conservation through genetic enhancement of socio-economic traits.
7.	Working with and strengthening farmers' organizations and community institutions.
8.	Capacity building of CBM-SA partner organizations.
9.	Networking of national, local and grassroots organizations engaged in biodiversity conservation.
10.	Using biodiversity conservation for climate change adaptation.
11.	Participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation.

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 country projects.

Fund Raising Strategies

The programme will form a multi-donor consortium to generate the required funding. Interested donors will be encouraged to support the programme through a one basket funding approach. It will also be possible for national donors to directly fund and support the country programmes.

Programmes Partners

Anthra, GREEN Foundation, Green Movement of Sri Lanka, LI-BIRD and UBINIG

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