

Three critical issues identified as a spin off from conservation of biodiversity

Biodiversity as an imperative in coping with climate change

The threat of climate change is looming large across different continents affecting millions of people particularly in the developing countries where agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood. The indigenous diversity maintained by the farming community for hundreds of years have the unique qualities of resistance to drought. Identifying and developing drought tolerant varieties suited to the area is part of the programme to conserve the diversity. It has been observed that as a result of evolutionary processes drought tolerant varieties provide the insurance against the risks of crop failure in the face of reduced rainfall.

Efficient use of water in rice cultivation through the system of Rice intensification is yet another approach to cope with reduced availability of water.

Use of mulch in the fields contributes to conserving soil moisture and reduces evaporation. Water being a limiting factor some techniques such as mulching are important to face drought conditions. Conserving bio diversity adds to the bio mass available.

Empowering women through conserving biodiversity

Women bear the brunt of living in fragile eco systems where management of Food, fodder and fuel become their main responsibility. In the experience of Green foundation conserving biodiversity through protecting the wild plants, green manure plants fodder and fuel trees and empowering the women with conserving the agricultural diversity enables a better quality of life to the women. Women also learn the use of credit facilities and are able to market the value added products.

Enhancing livelihood opportunities.

The conservation programme has been a well rounded attempt to add value to the seed, giving a marketing edge to the diversity conserved and a source of nutrition to the families. While governments have failed to provide the opportunities for employment, a conservation based agriculture offers sustainable livelihoods.