

**Golden Jubilee International Seminar**  
on  
**Integrated Natural Resources Management:  
Issues, Challenges and Perspectives**  
January 27-31, 2014

**Brief Report**

The issues of integrated natural resources management are burning topics all over the world. Keeping in backdrop, the need for designing international level protocols for action research on different dimensions of this burning subject, School of Regional Studies and Research, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (PRSU), Raipur (Chhattisgarh) in association with Council for Tribal and Rural Development, Bhubaneswar (Odissa) hosted this important international event to celebrate golden jubilee year of the university.

This five day International Seminar was formally inaugurated by honorable Dr. Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty, Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademy (National Academy of Art) , New Delhi and Vice Chancellor of PRSU Professor S.K. Pandey by lighting lamp before Goddess Saraswati on January 27, 2014 afternoon. The other dignitaries graced the Inaugural Session as a special guest are Professor D.K. Marothia, President National Institute of Ecology, New Delhi and National Coordinator, CINRM; Professor S.N. Rath, Dean, Mahatma Gandhi National Institute of Research and Social Action, Hyderabad.

Professor Mitashree Mitra, Convener of the Seminar welcomed the delegates to heart of Herbal State of India and brief about the issues of natural resources management. Dr. K.K. Chakravarty emphasized on inclusion of cultural protocols in policy and

programmes of natural resource management. Prof. D.K. Marothia pointed out the gap in governance mechanism and overlooking the property right regime and institutional arrangement in the framework. Professor S.N. Rath highlighted about evolution of indigenous management process from neolithic era to globalization era. They appreciated the role of young generation in conserving natural resources for use of future generation. A colourful Souvenir was released by hon'ble Chief Guest during the inaugural function. Dr. R.N. Pati, organizing Secretary of the International Seminar offered Vote of Thanks to guests and delegates of the international event.

Inaugural session was followed by cultural programme Odisee dance presented by Smt. Purnoshree Raut & Shri Lucky Mohanty of Khairagarh, Indira Kala Vishwavidyalaya and their team.

The International Seminar provides a platform for 85 speakers, and hundreds of students and teaching faculty of university and colleges of Chhattisgarh and other states participated in it and presented their paper. The scientists and researchers from Wild Life Institute of India Dehradun, University of Delhi, University of Mizoram, Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata etc and other research institutions of Country and abroad have participated and presented their research papers. This international forum facilitated the research scholars of different department of this University to interact with scientists and present their papers in this platform. The participation of the students and scholars is highly appreciated by the experts and dignitaries participated at the Seminar. The technical session on Conservation and Sustainable use of wild plant diversity was graced by eminent environmentalist of the Country. Dr. Brij Gopal, Director, Centre for Inland Waters in South Asia who spoke about different dimensions of water management and

its sustainable use. Prof. Ninad Bodhankar spoke on ground water management in Chhattisgarh.

Padma Bhusan Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization, Government of India, New Delhi graced the technical session on Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development on January 28, 2014. He delivered the illuminating speech on different dimensions of space research and use of satellite to natural resource management. His visit to the university was a boon and profound privilege for delegates. The other distinguished guests participated at this session are Shri D.S. Mishra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary Finance , Government of Chhattisgarh who spoke about different green laws and legal protocols on natural resource management. Shri A.K. Singh, IFS, PCCF and Director, Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Federation, Raipur chaired the Session and shared his experience on use of space technology in forest governance.

Third day of the seminar covered technical session on Public Interest Natural Resource Law and Energy Conservation and Natural Resource Management. The Keynote speakers and Chairperson invited are Dr. B.P. Nonhare, IFS, Director, Thakur Pyarelal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Nimora, Raipur, Shri S.C. Agrawal, IFS, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh HasthaShilpa Development Board, Government of Chhattisgarh and Professor P.K. Dass, Head Department of Anthropology, Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur, Prof. M.L. Nayak, Former Dean of Life Science Faculty, PTRSU, Raipur. All speakers spoke about gaps in policy and enforcement of green laws which facilitated abuse and overexploitation of natural resources.

Dr. Pranab Pal, Scientist, Wild Life Institute of India presented his research work on conservation of wild life and threats encountered in conservation of their habitat.

Different eminent speakers presented their research work on conservation of energy and different natural resources on this planet.

The organizers of the international seminar arranged field excursion tours for the delegates to model watershed harvesting in Mahasamund district and to visit world heritage archeological site at Sirpur on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The Seminararians have recommended a good number of resolutions. I cite below a couple of important recommendations:

- The programme of natural resource management revolve around the forest dwelling communities, their livelihood and their right to natural resources. The forest communities are neither empowered nor actively involved in development policies and natural resource governance. It is recommended that the enforcement of PESA Act, 1996 and Forest Right Act, 2006 be strictly monitored to empower local bodies for appropriate natural resource management and preventing non- sustainable and explosive abuse of mother earth by big players.
- The youth of our country have great unexplored potential for safe guarding mother earth and contributing towards balancing between development and biodiversity conservation. The youth must be encouraged to participate in such international conferences and air their concern for natural resource management. It is recommended that space and opportunities be provided for our future generation to live in this planet by sustainable use of natural resources.
- The forest dwelling communities of India are best examples of sustainable communities. They are best managers of agricultural diversity, cultural diversity

and genetic diversity. It is recommended that University and Research Institutions shall explore mode of indigenous natural resource management through participatory research approach. Scientists and Faculty of university be supported with adequate fund to undertake such research among primitive tribes of India.

- The cultural protocols are interlinked with community based mode of natural research management as well as property right regime and institutional arrangements at grass root level. A very little space is provided for cultural protocols and property right regime in natural resource management regime adopted by Government. It is recommended that adequate space be provided for accommodating cultural protocols in natural resource management policy and programmes for actualizing participatory bio-cultural democracy.

**Prof. Mitashree Mitra**

Convenor of the seminar

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