

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT CLUB
&
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (DRD),
ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY

Jointly organised Webinar on
“Biodiversity & Traditional Agricultural Practices: The Way Ahead”
Date: 28.09.2020 (Monday) Time : 11.00 am

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The webinar is organised to understand the biodiversity and the role of traditional agricultural practices in Tamilnadu and of the paired state. The webinar discussed the following issues,

The present day biodiversity we are enjoying is the result of nearly 3.5 billion years of evolution. The world has overcome several extinction events and served as cradle of life again. Humans, though a co-habitant of millions of organisms in this world, have actively caused wide spread destruction of biodiversity, which is irreparable too! Constraints in man power and money have made us to conserve just 3% of our world as biodiversity hotspots, leaving millions of organisms in the open.

The only diversity a human can observe well is that on his dining table! as a human mind is incapable of perceiving such enormous numbers, the biodiversity in totum just becomes another statistic, etched in mind. This observable present day diversity includes 20 odd plant species cultivated by human kind throughout early ages leading to present day agriculture. Availability of food enables oneself to pursue their inner longings leading to rise of settlements and later great civilizations along the banks of rivers. Thus agriculture shaped and is shaping, the way humans live and evolve on this planet.

Agriculture and its various nuances were perfected, almost, in our age old Indian civilization especially in Tamil culture as can be gleaned from various scriptures including Vedas, Puranas, epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Tholkappiam, Thirukkural, Perumpanattupadai. In addition, Kṛṣiparāśara, Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra, the Sangam literature of early Tamils, Manusmṛti, Varāhamihira’s Bṛhatsamhitā, Amarakoṣa, Kaśyapiyakṛṣisukti, and Surapāla’s Vṛkṣāyurveda also had recordings of India’s traditional agricultural practices and food systems.

It includes seed selection, seed coatings to enhance germination, land preparation, seasons, climatic factors and rainfall predictions, traditional water harvest systems and irrigation methods, sowing, crop protection practices, manuring, harvesting, traditional storage structures, marketing, taxation systems, land measurements etc.

The webinar also discussed on the methods of validation of traditional practices, reaping the benefits of time tested wisdom and integrating it with modern science to benefit the common farmer. Reducing animosity! between traditional and modern practioners and advocates for modern agricultural techniques. The webinar also debates on forming bridge between people, environ and politics that can be realised only by sowing in the young minds about environmentalism!.