

Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Community Awareness Case in Naga Hilly Region, Myanmar

Naga hilly region is widely covering with natural forest rich of biodiversity resources. Major causes of deforestation are trees cutting in huge numbers for daily domestic needs and shifting cultivation. To develop public awareness of Naga Tribal community on the basic conservational knowledge in forest genetic resources (FGR) and to initiate of active generation for sustainable development of Naga Hilly Region in Myanmar were conducted in 10 targeted villages from December 2010 to September 2011. The necessary information of forest resources status and problems of crop production were organized. One workshop focus on major causes of deforestation and its consequence effect in present was carried out for school teachers and local people. Traditional conservation ideas were discussed by local participants for proceeding program. And then school level basic conservational education program was conducted for school children in primary schools. Local people are also educated to get knowledge about relationship of forest resources, their livelihoods improvement and climate change for their next generations. Terrace- and contour-framing system for sloping region and permanent farms were discussed for instead of shifting cultivation. Orchard development techniques, afforestation and environmental conservation knowledge were shared among the villagers. Local villages' committees could cooperate to mitigate unsustainable harvesting of forest resources. "One Villager One Tree" program was introduced as one method of community participation for FGR conservation. Conservation without local people's involvement is not a viable option. As a result of increased awareness levels, their dependence on forest resources can be reduced by a substantial level. The integrated development of local communities must make a substantial and long lasting contribution to nature conservation efforts in Naga hilly region.

[Keywords]

Forest genetic resources, conservation, community awareness, Naga tribal community, hilly region, Myanmar