

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE ECOSYSTEM IN SATPUDA MOUNTAIN REGION OF MAHARASHTRA STATE - INDIA

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India is a predominately an agricultural country ..More than 80% of its population lives in villages and about 70% of them depends on the agriculture and forestry .Agriculture and forestry contributes about 40% to the Gross Domestic product .Therefore any significant transformation of the national economy and people cannot be conceived with out the transformation of both ,the agriculture and forestry sector as the considerable forest region is falls under agriculture ecosystem . It is possible to achieve it through the application of science and technology for improvement of agriculture and forestry using biodiversity conservation and management in the local region.

Satpuda is a hilly/mountain region in the Maharashtra state located in central part of India which is now facing the problems of loss of biodiversity in past years either due to over use of natural resources or due to change in the environmental conditions .The loss of biodiversity in this area is affecting the traditional and also modern agriculture systems. There is also one major aspect of this loss of biodiversity , which is loss of the surrounding ecosystem .Due to loss of biodiversity , there are changes in the ecosystem causing adverse impact not only on the agriculture but also on the environment , depletion in natural resources etc . The NGOs in this region has taken a considerable efforts to conserve and manage the biodiversity in this region.The NGO forum is helping the farmers in understanding the role of biodiversity and ecosystem in agriculture , its importance and the methods for conserving and managing the same . This paper deals with the role of different aspects of biodiversity conservation such as agricultural and forest species, social forestry etc in recent years .it also discusses the causes of the loss of biodiversity in this region, its effect on the socio-economic condition of the region and the past effort to conserve the biodiversity so as to avoid the environmental impacts.

The paper also discusses the role of NGOs and the local people in conserving and managing the agriculture biodiversity for their socio-economic development . It also emphasizes the need for extensive capacity building for assessment and conserving the agriculture biodiversity in the Satpuda mountain region using the public participation for maintaining the ecological and environmental balance in this region.