



## EXHIBITION

# Agrobiodiversity in North-east India

4-6 November 2015, Cultural Centre (NEHU) Campus, Shillong, Meghalaya

North-east India is home to a great diversity of crops and their different varieties, domestic animal breeds, medicinal plants and wild foods. The region is also home to unique wild relatives of a number of crops. This diversity is an essential part of local food system as well as having national, regional and global importance. This exhibition presents the diversity of some important local crops and participatory approaches to enhance their use and conservation.

### A RICH AND UNIQUE HERITAGE OF CROP SPECIES AND THEIR VARIETIES

North-east India is a centre of diversity for a number of globally important crops: rice, taro, black gram, beans, many different vegetables, mango and citrus. A rich diversity of local varieties have been developed by farmers over the centuries. The high varietal diversity reflects cultural diversity in the region. The Nokrek National Park in Meghalaya is a UNESCO recognised Gene Sanctuary for Wild Citrus.

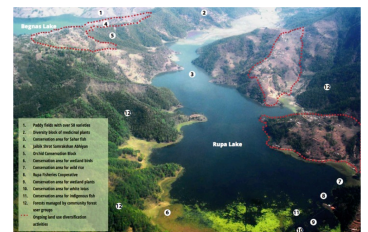


Annelie Bernhart

CITRUS SPECIES IN GARO HILLS

### COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT (CBM)

The maintenance of traditional crop and animal diversity by farmers and communities can contribute to improving livelihoods, climate change adaptation and sustainability. The CBM approach provides a way of realising these objectives through collaborative activities led by local farmer institutions and stakeholders that include conservation, monitoring, value-addition and restoration of agrobiodiversity at the landscape scale.



LOCAL INSTITUTIONS FOR AGROBIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

### SECURING BENEFITS FROM LOCAL CROPS

Many crops that are important in local food systems have received little attention from research and development. These crops are often well adapted to rain-fed farming systems and have important nutritional value, flavour or other characteristics. Minor millets are an example of a traditional crop in India with great potential. A holistic value chain approach supports the conservation, production and consumption of minor millets and other local crops.



PROMOTING TRADITIONAL MILLET CROPS

### DIVERSITY AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Changes in land use affect the extent and distribution of both wild and cultivated biodiversity. Work in eight countries around the world is exploring ways of ensuring that unique and valuable diversity is not lost as a result of inappropriate land use management decisions. In north-east India and Thailand there is a particular emphasis on the maintenance of diversity under rotational or shifting cultivation.



Dunja Mijatovic

PLANNING FOR DIVERSITY

# EXHIBITION ORGANIZERS

**The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research** is a partnership that brings together national and international research and development organizations with civil society and indigenous peoples groups to share knowledge and experiences that can improve agrobiodiversity maintenance and use.

[WWW.AGROBIODIVERSITYPLATFORM.ORG](http://WWW.AGROBIODIVERSITYPLATFORM.ORG)

**Bioversity International** delivers scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural biodiversity to attain sustainable global food and nutrition security.

[WWW.BIOVERSITYINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.BIOVERSITYINTERNATIONAL.ORG)

**The North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society** works in Northeast India to support the maintenance of local indigenous food cultures and agrobiodiversity.

[WWW.NESFAS.ORG](http://WWW.NESFAS.ORG)

**The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation** aims to accelerate use of modern science for agricultural and rural development for development and dissemination of technology to improve lives and livelihoods of tribal and rural communities.

[WWW.MSSRF.ORG](http://WWW.MSSRF.ORG)

**Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development** is a Nepalese non-governmental organization committed to capitalizing on local initiatives for sustainable management of renewable natural resources in order to improve the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized farmers, especially women.

[WWW.LIBIRD.ORG](http://WWW.LIBIRD.ORG)

**The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty** supports indigenous peoples, local communities and their representatives to celebrate, defend and revitalize their food systems and agricultural practices at local and global levels through research, participatory initiatives and associated advocacy activities.

