SUNDARBANS

Unique biodiversity must be protected against threat

It needs to be examined what is going on in the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem regarding the reproductive (flowering) stages of the plants and the normal activities of the bees; how gene-flow in the plant population is hampered which causes depletion of biodiversity as a whole.

Dr. M.A. Bashar

T goes without saying that Sundarbans is an important forest and the most beautiful ecosystem in the world. There are hundreds of articles on the question of importance of Sundarbans forest, dozens of projects have been undertaken and still there are many in the pipe line. All these are supposed to be for conservation of biodiversity of the forest and enhancement of flora and fauna population. But it is very unfortunate that so many projects are attempted spending huge amount of money for the betterment of the situation, yet the condition deteriorates.

Scientists and biodiversity specialists believe that the Sundarbans is a unique mangrove ecosystem in the world. This is unique ecosystem no doubt, but why it is unique? The question is rarely analyzed and poorly emphasized on the basis of scientific reasons. The reasons may be as the following:

- Largest mangrove ecosystem in the world with highest sequence of plant-animal interactions and interrelations.
- There are about thirty-five species of dominating plants that are holding the major structural biotic formation of the mangrove forest.
- · Of the thirty-five dominating plants, about twelve to fifteen are responsible to provide natural honey-sources during their reproductive stage. Sundarbans ecosystem pro-
- vides more than half of the total honey-production in the country

by the single species of honey bee which is unique in the world.

- · Honey bee-plant interaction is the key factor in the process of keeping the ecosystem healthy which is unique in the world.
- Sundarbans ecosystem maintains the proper habitat and niche for tigers and deer in combination.
- Sundarbans ecosystem harbours very vital breeding grounds for aquatic flora and fauna. The ecosystem maintains assemblage of the highest number of trophic levels in the world.

If we go to explain the above seven points it will be very large in volume. Only one example we shall select today that how interaction between dominating plant species and the bees in the forest holds uniqueness of the mangrove ecosystem.

In the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem, it is found that about 35 wild and forest plant species are related with honey bees' activities called "apiculture" and so called "honey-collection". Fortunately these are the dominating species in the Sundarbans forest. Out of the 35 plant species, 9 to 11 plants and their reproductive stage (flowering stages) are deeply associated (functionally related) with the honey production periodicity (the seasonality of honey collection), forest-plant gene-flow functionality, sustenance of forest health, maintenance of general equilibrium position (GEP) of bee population, maintenance of bee progeny system (in natural system) and finally the maintenance of bee-caste system.

In the Sundarbans, the deep relation between plants and the so called 'honey-collection' by 'mawallis' during the time period of April to June in the year are very much important vis-a-vis appearance of flowers on them. These plants are Khulshi (Aegiceras cornuculatum), Baen (Avicennia officinal is), Kankra (Brugguiera gymnorrhiza), Goran (Ceriops decandra), Gewa (Excoecaria agallocha), Jhana/garzon (Rhizophora mucronata), Keora (Sonneratia apetala and S. acida), Passur (Xylocarpus mekongenesis) and Hargoza (Acanthus ilicifolius). In addition to that many other plants are also related but their flowering periods are not so synchronisingly associated with the temporal facts of time and honey collection in the ecosys-

Of the major plants khulshi flowering period continues for the period of March-April; baen flowers remain functional for the period of May-June; kankra gives lower bloom during the month of April; goran flowering continues from the month of April to the end of May; jhana/garzan is provided

with appearance of flowers for the period of March-April; keora species gives flower at the end of April and continues up to the end of May; passur flowering lasts for the months of March and April; and hargoza maintains flowering for the months of May-June.

In the plant kingdom (especially in the case of flowering plants), flowering period is the most vital time for gene-flow success, for population maintenance, for fructification success, and for healthiness of the ecosystem where they are living or/and propagating their generations. These functionalities in the plants are dependent (especially in the forest ecosystem) on the animals' life cycle and are associated with synchronisation of coincidences between the 'flowering' of the plants and the 'life stages' of the animals concerned, especially bees.

These facts are externalities of the interactions that depend on the synchronisation of coincidences between the phenological stages of the related plants and the life stages of (specially the caste system) of the honey bees. This coincidence happens during

the time-period of the reproductive stages of the related plants. It needs to be examined what is going on in the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem regarding the reproductive (flowering) stages of the plants and the normal activities of the bees. How gene-flow in the plant population and the healthiness of the forest status are hampered which causes depletion of biodiversity as a whole. In this regard the interesting matter is the dynamism of the fact that starts at the atomic levels and is expressed at the community levels. This dynamism entertains a selfsustained natural system. The natural sustain-system is being practiced naturally for the mechanisation of plant gene-flow. The gene-flow mechanisation is carried out by bees.

It is to be seriously considered that the major plants responsible for providing nectars for preparing honey by the bees remain in flowering stage during the months of April to June. On the other hand, the wild bees are then dependent on the pollens and nectars for the maintenance of their reproduced progeny. This type of unique forest ecosystem is the proper natural

process for maintenance of the forest's healthiness. If the honey collection takes place in the immature stage of the honey comb and the maintenance of caste system in honey bees is destroyed so brutally, the healthiness of the plants in the forest definitely stands vulnerable because the floral reproductive activities are put under unusual passage. Obviously the plants in the forest will be at risk of being attacked by various diseases easily. Ultimately forest status will have to be threatened and declined continuously.

The unique bonding between two biotic aspects is the characteristic of the Sundarbans ecosystem. If the natural bonding is disturbed by any means specially by the man-made causes like constructions and direct interference to the interactive molecular level, then what is to be done by the proper authority either at the national or global level is well understood. They must rise to the occasion without any dillydallying.

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Large colonies of Apis dorsata in the mangrove forest where disturbance is poor or absent.



Bees are collecting honey and at the same time they are carrying out geneflow activities for the plants while they are in sound environmental condition in the forest.

Preserving biodiversity through bio-village

TITHE FARHANA and DAVID MEAGHER

IO-village means a village/territory where community people would live and breathe in nature and foster the biodiversified ecological balance. In this environment, they will practice organic farming, where natural fertilizers and seed could be used.

Most important features for considering a

bio-village are: Ensuring protection of water resources, best utilization of cultivated land, conservation of environment and ecological balance, local/original fishery cultivation, poultry rearing, tree plantation. New technology and innovation must be practiced for monitoring the impact of these on total ecological and agricultural development, followed by using IPM and bio-pesticide; emphasizing environment friendly horticulture and crop cultivation; ensuring health, hygiene, fresh water supply and sanitation, infrastructure development and ensuring supply of energy, power and utility services.

Bio-village is an ideal model for everlasting sustainability of economy, community development and environmental sanctuary issues. BSafe and International Rice Research Institute jointly have taken an ideal to set up a

model bio-village combining three villages of Manikgang. Apiculture and bee keeping as income generating activities, -vermicompost preparation and its utilization, neem tree plantation, bio pesticide, use of importance of medicinal herb planting are important features of this bio-village project.

Danestapur, Kuestara and Kantapara, the three villages of Bolra Union under Horirampur Thana of Manikgonj have been projected for setting up the bio-village construction of which would be the first formal bio-village project in Bangladesh.

Dr. M.Zainul Abedin, IRRI Representative for Bangladesh said, "Needless to say, environment friendly cultivation would uplift the farming and increase the crop production. IRRI's contribution to Bangladesh agriculture has passed 50 years already. Over this time we have been trying to innovate new genre of rice, bio technologies and others. But the project of bio-village is a new initiative".

Dr. Abedin further commented, "This project would create income generation in the three villages along with other areas and also women empowerment is a great factor inherent in this".

Initially, about 1200 families of the three project villages will be directly involved and

indirect empowerment will also be created when the infrastructure development would take place.

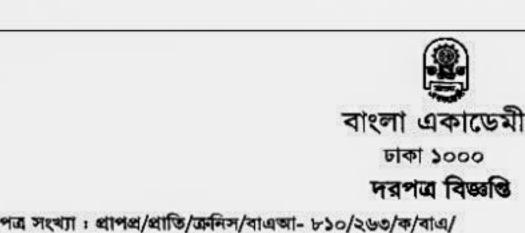
DKK Social Fishery Project is another feature of this village where fish cultivation will be practiced in the farmlands during the rainy season. Cultivation in floodplains areas would increase the soil fertility and decrease the total cost of agricultural crop production.

Sakiul Millat Morshed, Executive Director of SHISUK a local partner NGO considered "this project simultaneously would project the agriculture and fishery as well as pave way for nourishment of the young generation. When the project would be successful, it will be an ideal inspiration to set up more bio villages in rural areas".

Md. Ataur Rahman, Country Director of Hunger Free World considered "this project would definitely provide safety, security and certainty for better life and conservation of biodiversity as well as ecological balance. As our country is facing a negative impact of the climate change, this initiative would obviously and dynamically formulate an environment friendly and economically viable condition for the rural people.

Bio-village is a part of IRRI Bangladesh's Sustainable Soil Management initiative for food security of poor, marginal and small farmers of active flood plains and char lands of Bangladesh (SUSFER) project. This project has been taken to improve food security and increase the supply of nutritionally rich food to poor, marginal and small farming households of the active flood plains and char lands under the project areas. Capacity building of farmers and best utilization of existing resources is the key to achieve sustainable growth in agriculture. SUSFER project is working to strengthen farming activities by transferring technologies and implementing new initiatives, of course, environment friendly.

The writers are communication activist and environmentalist, respectively.



২ দরপত্রের বিষয়

GD-1380

তারিখ :২৫.০৩.২০১২

বাংলা একাডেমী আর্কাইভস-এর জন্য আসবাবপত্র তৈরি, জাতীয় সাহিত্য ও লেখক জাদুঘর সম্প্রসারণ কাজ এবং জাতীয় সাহিত্য ও লেখক জাদুঘরের বৈদ্যুতিক কাজ সম্পাদনের লক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞ প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরদাতাগণকে নিমুবর্ণিত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। ১ প্রতিষ্ঠান/দপ্তরের নাম : বাংলা একাডেমী।

় ক. বাংলা একাডেমী আর্কাইভস-এর জন্য আসবাবপত্র তৈরি।

			ও ছাপন। গ. জাতীয় সা বোর্ড ও ড	। হিত্য ও ৫ মন্যান্য সং দাদন জাদ্	লখক জাদুঘ জোম সরবরাহ	রর সম্প্রসারিত ও এবং স্থাপন।	ক সরঞ্জাম সরবরাহ মংশের জন্য প্যানেল মেথক জাদুঘরের জন্য	
6	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	২৫.০৩.২০	250				
8	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ		প্রাপপ্র/প্রাতি/ক্রনিস/বাএআ- ৮১০/২০১২, ভারিখ : ২১.০৩.২০১২					
ø	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)					
G	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	:	আবর্তক বাজেট।					
9	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	•	ক. কোষাধ্যক্ষ, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা ১০০০ ব. সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব-৪, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।					
ъ	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	;	১৫.০৪.২০১২ তারিখ রবিবার অফিস চলাকালীন।					
¥	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	1	ক, বাংলা একাডেমীর সভাকক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্স। খ. সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব-৪, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকার অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্স।					
٥٥	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেব তারিখ ও সময়	:						
>>	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	:	বাংলা একাডেমীর সভাকক্ষে ১৬.০৪.১২ তারিখ সোমবার বেলা ০১:০০ টায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে।					
>2	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা		সংশ্রিষ্ট বিষয়ে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ সরবরাহকারী।					
	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	_	ক. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রসিদ। খ. দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালতক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, TIN-নম্বরসহ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি। গ. বাংলাএকাডেমী, ঢাকার অনুকৃলে জামানতের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।					
78	দরপত্রের বিবরণ (বিষয় পরিচিতি)		IN THE PARTY OF TH	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR		কার্যসম্পাদদের সমরসীয		
1000	বাংলা একাডেমী আর্কাইভস-এর জন্য আসবাবপত্র তৈরি।			ক,	২,०००.००	₹8,000.00	শিডিউলে বর্ণিত সময়সীমা	
	জাতীয় সাহিত্য ও লেখক জাদুঘরের জন্য বৈদ্যুতিক			খ.	3.000.00	\$0,000,00		

সরজ্ঞাম সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন। জাতীয় সাহিত্য ও লেখক জাদুঘরের(সম্প্রসারিত 3,000.00 \$6,000.00 অংশের) জন্য প্যানেল বোর্ড ও অন্যান্য সরজ্ঞাম সরবরাহ এবং স্থাপন। ভাষা আন্দোলন জাদুঘর এবং জাতীয় সাহিত্য ও b00.00 \$0,000.00 লেখক জাদুঘরের জন্য নিদর্শন তৈরি। উপপরিচালক, প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক উপবিভাগ, বাংলা একাডেমী ১৫ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা ৩, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ৮৬১৯৩৫৪ * নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কাজ সম্পাদনে ব্যর্থ হলে কার্যাদেশপ্রাপ্ত ১৬ অন্যান্য তথ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের জামানত বাজেয়াপ্তসহ যে কোনো অঙ্কের আর্থিক জরিমানা

ধার্য্য করা হবে এবং কার্যাদেশ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। অনিবার্ব কারণবশত দরপত্র দাবিদের দিন কার্যদিবস ব্যাহত হলে তৎপরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে উল্লিখিত সময় ও ছাদে দরপত্র এহণ এবং খোলা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে।

স্বাক্ষর: এ. কে. এম. মাহবুবুল আলম উপপরিচালক প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক উপবিভাগ

Bio-villagers attending a monthly meeting.