



Agro-Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Agriculture of Lateritic Region of West Bengal (India)

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Abstract: According to an estimate west Bengal possesses vast genetic diversity of rice. In the year 1975, 5,556 rice varieties were recorded in west Bengal. The unfortunate aspect is that out of over five thousand landraces of rice more than 90% of the total number of traditional variety have disappeared from the rice field of Bengal and out of the existing landraces none is being cultivated in organized way. So far, 102 rare and traditional varieties of rice landraces have been documented from the lateritic region of West Bengal and is being tried to be propagated on small farm areas. The work deals with botanical features of these varieties and attempts being taken to conserve them. The outcome of the work will provide scientific, cultural and socioeconomic data, related to the landraces of Lateritic region on the basis of which the local farmers will be encouraged to cultivate these races, so that they are not at loss because of our negligence and the agro-biodiversity of West Bengal can be sustained.

Key Words: Agro-biodiversity, Landraces, Rice, Lateritic Region, Sustainable agriculture
