



ANNAM

NATIONAL FOOD & AGRO BIODIVERSITY

FESTIVAL

11 – 15 February 2010, Kozhikode, Kerala

REPORT



organiser

centre for innovation
in science & social action



Overview

Food security is one of the looming threats that mankind faces in modern era. Many cultures have diversified their foods by means of farming crops and maintaining agro-biodiversity, preparation, cooking methods and manufacturing. This also includes a complex food trade which helps the cultures to economically survive by-way-of food, not just by consumption. The food that we eat at present is not the one available in our surroundings, but highly processed and junk food which are perceived to have little or no nutritional value, with ingredients considered unhealthy. All over the world, communities are awakening to the devastating effects of corporate-driven foods and farming systems which have turned agriculture into an extractive industry, and food into a major health hazard.

There is also a growing realization that biodiversity is the real capital of food and farming and linked to it is cultural diversity, the rich and diversified food cultures in the world. Our global food supply now is gradually becoming centralized and relies on diminishing variety of crops that again are grown in huge monoculture making it more vulnerable to pest outbreaks and diseases. In order to ensure food and nutritional security at local levels we need to maintain local agro-biodiversity as we are poorer as the biodiversity of our farms disappears and as the cultural diversity of our food system disappears. What are at stake presently are not only the quality of life, but also the food security and food sovereignty.

“Annam” is a people's initiative launched in India jointly by Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) and Navdanya India to popularize the concept of good food, to make the people aware of the linkage between good food and local agro-biodiversity, work towards conservation of local agro- biodiversity to enrich food diversity, and to fight for food security and food sovereignty, in a globalised world where corporates are in a pursuit to monopolize food and agriculture.

ANNAM National Food and Agro-biodiversity Festival is an attempt to infuse a new food culture that ensures not only supply of healthy and ethically produced food but also facilitates conservation of rich biodiversity at grass roots. It aims to showcase the rich diversity of Indian food, agro-biodiversity, farming and cooking practices, linkage between food and health and traditional health care systems and food culture and wisdom of India. CISSA joined hands with several like-minded government and non-governmental organizations in organizing this Festival. The first Annam Festival was held at Thiruvananthapuram during 27-31 December 2008. The second Annam Festival was held at Kozhikkode, Kerala during 11-15 February 2010. The events organized in connection with the Festival at Kozhikode included Exhibition, Cultural meet National Seminar, Debate on “Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation”, and competitions.

Objectives of the Festival

- To popularize the concept of good food and importance of traditional food
- To create awareness against 'junk food'
- To showcase the rich agro-biodiversity of India
- To promote organic farming and popularize organically farmed products
- To impart training on traditional food making
- To document and preserve recipes of traditional food (grandma's recipes)
- To showcase the agricultural heritage and agro-folk culture of India
- To organize seminars and workshops related to food, nutrition and agro-biodiversity
- To create networks to promote linkages between producers and consumers of good food
- To establish linkages and transfer the know-how of R & D centers to common man on agriculture and food processing.
- To publish information materials on good food, agro-biodiversity and food culture

Collaborators

Co-organisers Festival



Co-Sponsors seminar



Prime Sponsor



Curtain Raiser Programme

28 January 2010



Sri.C.Divakaran Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Inaugurating the Curtain raiser programme, named as 'Kelikottu'

Food and Civil Supplies Minister C. Divakaran on 28 January 2010 inaugurated the publicity campaign, 'Kelikottu', of the five-day Annam national food and agro biodiversity festival to be held

in Kozhikode from February 11 to 15. During his inaugural speech at St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, where hundreds of students from various schools in the city had gathered, Mr. Divakaran exhorted the



Sri.C.Divakaran Minister for Food & Civil Supplies unfolding the 'Jaivasamrakshana kuda'

students to stand up for the protection of the earth and to raise a line of defence against the devastation of its organic properties and biodiversities. He also stated that effective steps should be taken to attract the young

generation to farming. "We also have to be able to liberate them from an adulterated food culture," he said. Mr. Divakaran unfolded a white umbrella "Jaivasamrakshanakkuda" giving a symbolic protection to a bunch of



A Section of the audience

plants and saplings held out by the students on the stage.

The students also took a pledge to submit themselves to protect the nature and its biodiversity without doing anything harmful to corrupt its organic properties.

A. Pradeepkumar, MLA, presided over the function. A poster exhibition with the message of 'food security for a secured future' was organised by the Centre for Innovation in

Science and Social Action (CISSA) at the venue. Cultural programmes, including folk songs by the Kalam Pattukootam in Thrissur, and an awareness programme on healthy food by ventriloquist N. Vinod were held on the occasion. Adv. M. Sankaran, Civic Chandran, Prof. Shobeendran, Dr. Ansari, Fr. Antony Kozhuvanal, T.V. Balan, C.E. Chakkunny, Fr. Devasya, Dr. A. Bijukumar and Dr. N.S. Pradeep spoke on the occasion.



Dignitaries sharing the happy moments with the large turnout of school children in the kelikottu

Inauguration

11 February 2010



Prof. K.V.Thomas Union Minister of state for Agriculture Inaugurating the Annam Festival
Dr.V.S.Vijayan, Sri.A.Sujanapal, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr.C.Suresh Kumar,Dr.G.G.Gangadharan
Sri. M.Bhaskaran (Worshipful Mayor), Sri. A. Pradeepkumar M.L.A are also on the scene

The exhibition of Annam National Food and Agro-biodiversity Festival was inaugurated by Prof. K.V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India. He stressed the need for technological interventions to face the issue of food security. He has suggested to include both technology and heritage to form a balanced solution to meet the growing need of food production in the country. The worshipful Mayor of Kozhikkode, Shri M. Bhaskaran presided over the function and Shri A. Pradeepkumar MLA was the chief guest of the function.

Dr. Vandana Shiva, founder Director, Navdanya, delivered the key-note address. She said, "This country is rich in biodiversity and it is so diverse that no other country in the world has such ecosystem diversity. Now this diversity is under severe threat". She narrated the calculated moves by the multinationals to establish their monopoly in food and

agriculture sectors. She demanded the need for agro-processing units in villages with the involvement of local communities, especially women, to stop the ingression of new technologies and chemicals into these sectors. "We need to discard the GM technologies in order to ensure the health of the younger generation and to fight for food security and food sovereignty. We should realize the moves of corporate companies to supply the junk food and drinks at a cheaper prize, while availing huge subsidies from our own government. Technologies must be assessed in terms of health and environment" she added.

Dr. V.S. Vijayan, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, highlighted the need for continuous vigil on the introduction of genetically modified crops in the country. Former Minister for Environment and Forests, A. Sujanapal, Thayattu Balan, Dr. G.G. Gangadharan, Dr. C. Sureshkumar, Prof. T. Shobeendran, Dr. R. Ansari and K.C. Abu attended the inaugural meeting.



Exhibition

11-15 February 2010



A view of the exhibition hall

The exhibition organized in connection with the Annam National Food and Agro-biodiversity Festival, held at Baby Marine Ground, Kozhikkode, was attended by over 100 government and non-government organizations and individuals, with their exhibits displayed in 172 stalls. The governmental organizations participated in the Exhibition included Department of Ayush (G.O.I), National Rural Health Mission, State Information and Public Relations Department, Coconut Development Board, Coffee Board, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, various R&D institutes under the KSCSTE, Indian Institute for Spices Research, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, NABARD, NAFED and K-BIP. The major non-governmental organizations participated in the Exhibition were M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and The Environment (ATREE), Malabar Natural

History Society, Himalaya Drug Company, Arya Vaidya Pharmacy(Coimbatore) etc. The prime sponsor of the programme, Cholayil Sanjeevanam, displayed an array of their products in their stall. Documentaries on Cholayil Ayurvedic Health and Research Academy and Cholayil Medicinal Plant Conservation Park were exhibited. Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala displayed the concept of food in Ayurveda and showcased the rich diversity of medicinal plants in India. The stalls highlighting the advantages of Indian Systems of Medicine, including Department of Ayush, also offered free consultation services to the visitors.

The tribal groups from Waynad exhibited ethnic food and crops in their stalls, in addition to handicrafts made from local resources. The rich genetic diversity of Indian rice, including the medicinal *Navara*, scented *Gandhakasala*, *Chennellu*, *Ponnari*, *Vellari*, *Medapuncha*, *Arikkurai*, and *Varinellu*, mangoes, coffee, tuber crops, millets, etc. formed part of the agro-biodiversity exhibition. Rural products such as areca-frond utensils, products from



A section of the crowd

coconut, tribal medicines, terracotta products, pottery and handicrafts were on display. Farm-fresh plantains, yams and other vegetables were also available both for display and sale. Further, the Kasargod dwarf cattle, a rare and endangered variety of local breed of cow were also exhibited at the venue.

Another attraction was display of more than 100 varieties of food products prepared from jackfruit. Seed varieties that are facing extinction were also exhibited at the festival. Horticulture and garden nurseries selling saplings and seeds were another attraction. Village Market and Food Court were also arranged in connection with the Exhibition.

Agri Friends who played a major role in organising the village market succeeded in bringing diversity of Tuber Crops in Kerala and offered food products made from them. Another highlight of the Festival was the exhibition of Geographic Indications in food by CISSA, which included *Marayoor Sarkara*, *Njavara Rice*, *Ramasseri Idli* and *Vazhakkulam pineapple*. CISSA also arranged a stall that exhibited a variety of food fish available in the inland water bodies of Kerala.

CISSA arranged a "Kitty Show", by the

ventriloquist Shri Vinod Naranat, to highlight the ill effects of junk foods on human species. In addition, through a poster exhibition comprising over 100 posters, the impacts of junk food on human health, advantages of traditional food and values of agrobiodiversity in maintaining food security, were highlighted by CISSA. Selected photographs of participants in the National Photography Competition organized by CISSA were also displayed in the Exhibition.

The book exhibitions in the exhibition venue were organized by Mathrubhumi, Navdanya New Delhi, FRLHT, AYUSH and CISSA.



Sri.M.A.Baby Min. for Edn & Culture visiting CISSA Pavilion



Stall set up by Theme Partner Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala

Food Court

11-15 February 2010



The food court serving traditional healthy food was the major attraction during the Festival. The region specific diversity in cookery practices in the state, many of which is now disappearing from normal use, were on the show in the food festival. CISSA made separate counters for serving traditional food and drinks of Kerala. An entire array of stalls selling ready-to-eat ethnic foods at the food court attracted large number of visitors. The items included traditional snacks like ragi appam, scented terali appam, edana appam, ada, kozhukkatta.etc.

Various preparations based on local health food traditions like Adalodakam koottu, a mixture made from Malabar Nut leaves and other herbs which helps to purify blood and get rid of lung related health problems like coughing, phlegm etc. were also on display. Many stalls provided traditional Malabar food items to the visitors.

'Aranmula Valla Sadya' (in Malayalam, 'vallam'

means boat and 'sadya' is feast')served in the Food Court every day was the major attraction. this is a traditional feast annually held at the Parthasarathy temple in Aranmula on Ashtami Rohini day. Originally at Aranmula the feast is served first to the oarsmen of 41 snake-boats who participate in the procession singing in chorus. It consists of the main dish rice with 54 vegetarian side dishes. Different from the usual Sadya, the 'Valla Sadya' has four varieties of pickle, six varieties of chips, and a smattering of snacks, including 'unniyappom' and 'Parippu Vada', five varieties of 'Payasam' and three 'Pappadams' including the big and small types. The sequence of each item and the combinations of consumption has scientific reasons and are based on the native sciences like Ayurveda. The nutritional value of the various items in their native form highlighted the great wisdom of the native food culture.



Visitors enjoying Aranmula Sadya

Competitions



School children participating in the Painting Competition

A National Photography Competition was organized by CISSA in association with Photographic Society of Kerala on the theme topics food and agro-biodiversity. Selected entries were displayed in the stall maintained by CISSA at the Exhibition venue.



A view of the Selected Entries of the photography Competition

A painting competition for school children was also organized by CISSA in association with Darsanam Samskarika Vedi at Kozhikkode.

Cultural Meet

12 February 2010

The cultural meet organized in connection with Annam Festival was inaugurated by Jose Thettayil, Minister for Transport, Govt. of Kerala on 12 February

2010. The meeting was presided over by A. Sujana Pal, former Minister from Kerala.



Sri.A.Sujanapal former Minister, Sri.Jose Thettayil , Minister for transport & Dr. G.G.Gangadharan, President CISSA on the dias of the inaugural function of the cultural meet



Launching of Debate Series on Biodiversity and Development

13 February 2010



Sri. Binoy Viswam Minister for Forests inaugurating the debate series

The Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) of United Nations selected CISSA (Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action) from India as the partner organisation to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) 2010. Considering the ever increasing human activities triggering biodiversity loss at an alarming pace, a phenomenon often referred to as sixth extinction, and realizing the fact that these losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on, the United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide.

CISSA launched a debate series on the topic "Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation" in connection with IYB 2010. Minister for Forests and Housing Binoy Viswam, Govt. of Kerala inaugurated the debate on 13 February 2010. He said that the solution for food security should come from our villages and the technologies and instruments practiced in the west are not necessary for food sufficiency of the country. "For example,

this country with over 50,000 varieties of rice and over 4,000 varieties of brinjal should become self sufficient in food production. We should not be part of the "food refugees" any more and there should be specific action plans to ensure food for all. To prevent such crisis, the environment has to be conserved and more importance should be given to food security. Also, the political and monetary benefits have to be kept apart when we are talking about environment." He said. He requested Annam meeting to come forward with better solutions to solve poverty alleviation, with strong foundation in local biodiversity.

Delivering the key-note address, environmentalist Dr. Satis Chandran Nair stressed the importance of making people more knowledgeable about biodiversity conservation. "Biodiversity of the State is going to suffer more, as the people are less informed about its importance, We have to see these problems seriously and there must be more active interventions to solve these problems" He said. Sri T.P. Padmanbhan (Director, SEEK, Kannur), Dr. T.N. Vijayakumar (Malabar Natural History Society), Shri Ajith Venniyoor and Dr. A. Biju Kumar spoke on the occasion. The debates organised during the year will finalise the strategies and action plans for integrating biodiversity as an element in all development plans and CISSA will policies and submit the report to CBD and government.

National Seminar

12-14 February 2010



Dr.K.Jayakumar Exe. Director CWRDM inaugurating the National Seminar

Biodiversity, the diversity of life on earth is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. It is linked with health and food security and threats to biodiversity affect the food security and our

health. In this context CISSA organized a three-day National Seminar on “Health, Food & Agro-Biodiversity - Changing Paradigms” during 12-14 February 2010 at Kozhikode as part of the ANNAM Festival. 187 participants from across India attended the Seminar.



The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. K. Jayakumar, Executive Director, Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM). Renowned environmental activist Dr. Vandana Shiva delivered the key-note address. She said that the food sector is now increasingly monopolized by larger cooperates and the government should lift the subsidies given to fast food and soft-drink industries in India.

Climate change is aggravated by industrialized, globalized agriculture based on fossil fuels, and the resulting climate crisis in turn impacts food security. “The diversion of agriculture lands to the production of fuel is not only upsetting the ecological balance but also affecting our energy and nutritional security. The model of green revolution is based on monoculture and in India with so much diversity in agricultural crops,

promoting diversity is the only way towards sustainable management of our natural resources. We need to focus more on nutrient budget of the soil and water conservation when we think in terms of new paradigms in this field" She said. According Dr. Vandana, biodiverse ecological agriculture provides higher nutrition and food per acre than industrial agriculture. It reduces emissions and mitigates climate change, while also helping adapt to it. Dr. Vandana also released the abstract and proceedings of the seminar by presenting a copy to Dr. M.P. Nayar, former Director, Botanical Survey of India.

Prof. P.V. Madhusoodanan of Calicut University was the president of the inaugural session. Dr. G.G. Ganagadharan, President, CISSA, Dr. K.G. Ajit kumar and Dr. N.S. Pradeep spoke on the occasion. The Seminar highlighted the urgent need for focusing on our highly diverse agro-biodiversity, especially the lesser known food

crops, in order for achieving sustainable food production and nutritional security. The quality of food, and not just its quantity, ought to guide our agriculture, said Prof. PS Ramakrishnan of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In the three-day seminar, Prof. K.P. Prabhakaran Nair (University of Belgium), Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan (Jawaharlal University, New Delhi), Manoj Kumar Menon (Director, ICCOA, Bangalore), Dr. M. P. Nayar (Former Director, Botanical Survey of India), Ignaceous Konikkara (Calicut University), Dr. T. Vijayakumar (Former Director, School of Health Sciences, Calicut University), Dr. Vinod Malayilethu (WWF India), Prof. C.K. Peethambaran, Dr. Sasidharan and Dr. P.R.G. Mathur delivered invited lectures. 56 research papers were presented in the theme topic "Agro-biodiversity and food security" and "Food and Health".



Sri.Mullakkara Retnakaran, Minister for Agriculture delivering the valedictory address

Sri Mullakkara Retnakaran, Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala delivered the valedictory address. "The disappearance of cultural diversity associated with agriculture is the major threats to food security in India. We need to develop strong networks in order to block and ward off the debilitating effects of globalization". He highlighted such a struggle that finally culminated in imposing ban on the cultivation of genetically modified Brinjal in India. He also highlighted the need for recreating the social bonding and family values for developing better food habits in younger generation. The meeting was presided over by Prof. C.K. Peethambaran. Dr. K.G. Ajit Kumar

and Dr. A. Biju Kumar also spoke on the occasion.



Valedictory Function

15 February 2010



Sri.M.K.Raghavan M.P. inaugurating the valedictory function

The valedictory session of the Annam Festival was inaugurated by Shri M.K. Raghavan, Member of Parliament from Kozhikkode. He also distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held in connection with the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Shri Kunjahammed Kutty Master, District Panchayath President. M.A. Johnson, Prof. Shobeendran, Dr. R. Prakashkumar, Dr. C. Sureshkumar, Dr. A. Bijukumar and Dr. N.S. Pradeep spoke on the occasion.

The trophies to the best pavilions in the Exhibition were distributed in the function. Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala bagged the first prize, and the second prize was shared by Coconut Development Board and Coffee Board, while MSSRF bagged the third prize. The special appreciation award was given to Thina for displaying traditional food varieties of Kerala. The annam declaration 2010, recommendations of the Festival, was released during the occasion.



Awards



Best stall- Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala



First runner up- Coffee Board



First runner up- Coconut Development Board



Second runner up- MSSRF

Special Jury award
to various units of
AYUSH





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Time has come for
reclaim their tradi-
habits to ward off
ards posed by new
ts, noted environ-
and author Vanda-
said.
Delivering the keys-
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homogenised food
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of high-tech food
available in the mar-

ket was very low Ms. Shiva
said that only organic food va-
rieties could give the ade-
quate nutrition and the
resultant energy. Ms. Shiva
also said that the world was
yet to fully understand the bi-

ological implications
duces like Bt Brinjal.
Earlier, the festival was
nugurated by Union Minis-
of State for Agriculture K.V.
Thomas, who said that the
possibilities of genetic engi-

Food seminar begins today

Staff Reporter
KOZHIKODE: The three-day
national seminar on
'Health, Food, and Agro-
biodiversity--Changing
Paradigms' organised as
part of Annam will begin at
the Marine Grounds here
on Friday. K.V. Jayakumar,
executive director of The

Centre for Water Resources
Development and
Management (CWRDM),
Kozhikode, will inaugurate
the seminar.
Environmental activist
Vandana Shiva will deliver
the keynote address. The
seminar will see as many as
50 presentations and seven
invited talks.

Recipe for disaster
Once pesticide was
called as high-tech
Now, it has changed into
genetically-engineered
plants that have pesticide
inside. Actually, these have
to be called stupid-tech

**വിഭവ വൈവിധ്യവുമായി
ആരംഭിച്ചു വള്ളുവശ്ശി**

പുതിയ തരത്തിൽ അന്നം...
ആരംഭിച്ചു വള്ളുവശ്ശി...
പുതിയ തരത്തിൽ അന്നം...
ആരംഭിച്ചു വള്ളുവശ്ശി...

വേറിട്ട രുചിക്കൂട്ടുകൾ ഒരുക്കി അന്നം

പുതിയ തരത്തിൽ അന്നം...
ആരംഭിച്ചു വള്ളുവശ്ശി...
പുതിയ തരത്തിൽ അന്നം...
ആരംഭിച്ചു വള്ളുവശ്ശി...





Recommendations (Annam Declaration 2010)

Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) and the organisations supported and participated in the five-day "Annam National Food and Agro-biodiversity Festival" declare:

-  *That the permeation of junk food and processed food into the market systems of India, through the well organised corporate networks, resulted not only in severe health implications in the local population, but also has started affecting the availability of traditional and local food.*
-  *That the food security of the country will be at stake in the immediate future as a result of corporatisation of agriculture and food sector.*
-  *That there is a greater need to popularise the importance of good food and food security based on local agro-biodiversity, and organise the people and communities across India to carry the message forward.*
-  *That there is an urgent need for focusing on our highly diverse agro-biodiversity, especially the lesser known food crops, in order for achieving sustainable food production and nutritional security.*
-  *That biodiversity should be integrated into all developmental plans and biodiversity conservation should be highlighted in poverty alleviation programmes as food and nutritional security can only be achieved through conservation of biodiversity. The quality of food, and not just its quantity, ought to guide our agriculture.*
-  *That the government subsidies and tax relaxation given to junk food and carbonated soft drinks and pesticides and other harmful agro-chemicals should be stopped immediately so as to make the food safe and traditional food cheaper.*
-  *That the advertisements that spread wrong and spurious messages about the positive contributions of fast food and carbonated soft drinks should be banned and the sale of these items should be banned in educational institutions, considering several scientific studies on the serious health impacts of junk food and carbonated soft drinks in children.*
-  *That food and agriculture should become part of the syllabus in all stages of education and there should be specific training and action plans on agriculture at educational institutions.*
-  *That frequent scientific studies should be undertaken both in private and public sector on the health implications of junk food and carbonated soft drinks.*
-  *That a series of good food restaurants should be established across India for making quality food available to everyone.*
-  *That the Research & Development institutions in*



India should take initiatives to do research on improving the quality of Indian food and its processing.

- That the lesser known food crops of the country should be fully utilised to achieve food security and food processing and storage facilities as well as community seed banks should be established at local levels. The role of managing these facilities should rest with the local self help groups.
- That there should also be proper documentation of traditional knowledge systems related to agriculture and local food items in order to preserve their identify and for popularising the same.
- That there should be specific action plans for conserving the rich agro-biodiversity of the country and the government should publish a white paper on the status of agro-biodiversity of the country.

- That the central and state governments should formulate an organic farming policy and action plans to phase out unsustainable agriculture practices.

- That genetically modified crops and genetically modified food should be totally banned in India as a precaution against their harmful effects on environment and health.

- That biodiversity conservation should be integrated in all development planning and policy formulations and in all poverty alleviation schemes.

- That Food and Agro-biodiversity festivals should be organised at every village in order to spread the message of importance of local food and agro-biodiversity.

- That the unused government land should be maximally utilized for enhancing agriculture production.





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