

Panel to look into crop, animal genetics

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Chennai, Dec. 29: A national advisory committee has been formed to survey crops and animal genetic diversity systems across the country. "The committee headed by Dr. E.A. Siddiqui will be supported by a task force on conserving plants that are facing the threat of extinction" said Dr. S. Kannaiyan, chairman, National Bio Diversity Authority(NBA).

Speaking to this newspaper he said that the committee would suggest that studies be carried out on flora and

fauna that are in the endangered list. Many traditional varieties of plants are yet to be fully screened for their usefulness in specific conditions.

The committee would study multiple and inter-cropping practices, dynamics of soil, water and atmosphere in relation to domesticated biodiversity. This attempt by the NBA would help to conserve species of plants that are now under the threat of going extinct due to climatic changes including drought and global warming. The task force would work at

the grassroot level to avoid the over exploitation of medicinal herbs that are exported to foreign countries by NRIs. Such exports would be streamlined using the task force, he said.

The objective of the national level committee was to provide assistance to the NBA and it would produce formalised information on domestic biodiversity. Over the past few decades formal agricultural research and development in the country had predominantly focussed on a narrow definition of biodiversity.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGROBIODIVERSITY

Venue: Conference Hall, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

Date: 29.12-2005

Time: 10.00 A.M. – 5.00 P.M.

PROGRAMME

Welcome Address and	Prof. S. Kannaiyan
Introductory remarks	Chairman ,
Opening remarks by the Chairman	NBA
of the Agrobiodiversity committee	Prof E A Siddique
	Former DDG (Crops) ICAR
Presentation of Guidelines	Dr Kalpana Sastry
prepared by ICAR on collaborative	
Research Projects	Discussions on the Guidelines
	Discussions on the specific issues on Agrobio diversity and Biodiversity Act 2002
	Agenda for the next: meeting
Vote of thanks	Dr K Venkataraman
	Member Secretary