Wetland condition of Nepal

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Nepal is a small country in global map. But Nepal is very rich in the natural recourses. There is much type of recourses. Water, medicinal herbs, wetland, spices, mountains and wild animal. Nepal is a land-locked country. It is no doubt that Nepal could not get developed without the exploitation of natural recourses. According to the data, more than three hundred big and small wetlands are in Nepal. Some wetland can be used for conservation. But many wetlands cannot be used for conservation. According to Government of Nepal, six wetland have been nominated in the 'convention on wetlands of international importance especially'. But other wetland cannot be used for conservation. That are many reasons for non-qualifying for this purpose. The government has spent huge budget for some wetland conservation. But those wetlands have not used for conservation. About 5 percent of the total land area of Nepal that is part 7, 43563 hectares of wetland regions of the field. Nepal has countless number of water sources, springs, water area, lake, lagoon, opened irrigation, lake, canal, the water there. Because different types of water resources available in Nepal could be used for wetland vegetation, wildlife, birds, fish, crocodiles and tortoise, various kinds of insects, fertilization etc. As per data, 25 present plants, 172 types of fish and 190 types of birds get in the wetland. Local peoples have not understood about the importance of wetland and biodiversity. Before some time called west land of wetland. According to last study, 370 are wetland found in the Nepal.

Biodiversity and food security: A traditional approach

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In the present regime of biodiversity conservation and food security the sustainable utilization of bio resources has assumed a great significance. The matter is more in countries located in the tropical regions of the world. Like some African and Scandinavian countries and in India too, certain ethnic communities whom we can call eco-communities have been maintaining a close relation with nature so much so that they can sustain life for days together on wild bio-resources even if there is no outside supply of food. The present study is based on India's Eastern Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh, where more than hundred tribal communities ranging from individual number of as low as of only three thousand to about two hundred thousand population live in a common geographical area of approximately eighty four square kilometers. The Eastern Himalaya belongs to one of the hot spots and also has in common some characteristic vegetations of Indo-Myanmar region. The study reveals that ethnic communities used until recently at least half of dozen of wild plants as famine food. When there was crop failure due to natural calamities or damage due to insect pests and by wild animals the local communities took recourse to wild edibles. Certain wild palms, cryptogams, yams and taros used to provide them all important carbohydrate food to tide over the lean period. The detail chemical investigations on one of such famine food plants viz., Wallichia species showed all important nutraceutical and anti-oxidant properties. However, the fast development activities in the form of extension of road network and utilization of hydropower resource with the commissioning of around one hundred and eighty small and medium sized hydropower projects on some important rivers flowing through north south directions including the commissioning as many as five big dams along the higher reaches of mighty Brahmaputra by China is fraught with the danger of obliterating the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayan landscape, and in the process, the biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge is going to be the greatest casualty in the near future. The present paper has highlighted this paradoxical situation providing a list of such famine food plants, certain scientific investigation including indigenous way of extracting carbohydrate reserve on at least one of such plants, and the challenges posed by recent development activities have also been reported.

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