

## **REPORT ON INAUGURATION OF BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC) –AGARWADA-CHOPDEM.**

The Biodiversity Management Committee –Agarwada-Chopdem was constituted under the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project title " Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions " and was inaugurated on 27/11/2015.

Shri. Eknath Chodankar, Village Panchayat Member welcomed the gathering. and introduced the Guests. The dignitaries were welcomed by offering potted plants. The BMC was inaugurated at the hands of Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary, GSBB, the Chief Guest of the function in the presence of Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Environmentalist, the Guest of Honour and Mrs. Shashikala Damaji, Sarpanch by lighting the traditional lamp. Besides the Village Panchayat members, BMC members, Media personnel and the locals were also present for the function.

Dr. Sawant spoke on the Genesis of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and on conservation of bio- resources and Biodiversity Heritage Sites. He also conveyed the objectives of the Convention Biological Diversity. He further mentioned about the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project that is working on ABS in India and explained the scope of ABS agreements.

Shri Rajendra Kerkar addressed the gathering. He stated that our ancestors have laid down principals for conserving the biodiversity and it is the duty of the BMC to take this tradition forward. He also highlighted some traditional practices such as preparing of Jaggery from coconut palm, Salt pans and indigenous medicine on jaundice for which the Agarwada-Chopdem village was famous for in the past.

Subsequently the BMC Certificate was handed over to the Chaiperson and members of BMC by Dr. Nitin Sawant. Ms. Trupti Jadhav, Scientific Officer, GSBB and SPC UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project was also present during the inaugural function.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri. Prabhakar Nagvekar, BMC member.

  
Member Secretary  
Goa State Bio-diversity Board