

Date: 11/09/15

## **REPORT ON INAUGURATION OF BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC) –COTIGAO**

Under the banner of 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 " which will help in implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, in the State the Goa State Biodiversity Board constituted the Biodiversity Management Committee –Cotigao, which was inaugurated on 10/09/2015.

Shri. Umesh Gaonkar, Member of Cotigao BMC welcomed the gathering and gave the introductory address. The BMC was inaugurated by Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary, GSBB in the presence of Smt Meena Gaonkar, Sarpanch/Chairperson of Cotigao BMC, Village Panchayat Members and the locals.

Dr. Sawant spoke on the Genesis of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and on conservation of bio- resources. He also conveyed the objectives of the Convention Biological Diversity and urged the villagers and school students to support the BMC. He also emphasised on the need to conserve the habitat. He further mentioned about the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project that is working on ABS in India. Dr. Sawant further explained about the scope of ABS agreements.

Subsequently the BMC Certificate was handed over to the Chairperson and members of BMC-Cotigao by Dr. Nitin Sawant. Ms. Trupti Jadhav, Scientific Officer, GSBB and SPC UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project was also present during the inaugural function. Ms. Jadhav briefed the gathering about the functions & role of BMC. She also guided the BMC on utilization of funds and Preparation of PBR.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Chairperson of the BMC.