

### **Press Note**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the German technical cooperation agency, is organising an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Workshop at Chennai on 28 and 29 June 2016.

The workshop brings together experts and officials from NBA, state biodiversity boards and officials from GIZ to present and share experiences and learnings from ABS mechanisms implemented by the NBA and state biodiversity boards.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC. She explained about the status of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in India and the ways and means by which ABS is followed.

Dr. Prasad said that fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and this should be followed at the bottom up approach. Conservation and Sustainable development, the first two objectives should be given the top most priority.

Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority stated that India has been a pioneer globally in implementing the ABS mechanism. The Biological Diversity Act is compliant with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

Dr. Edgar Endrukaitis, Director, GIZ, emphasized that good ABS practices, dialogue with stakeholders, strengthening of capacity and development of a monitoring system, will help in better implementation of the Biological Diversity Act.

The workshop had the participation of representatives from 13 state biodiversity boards - Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal. They presented the implementation of the ABS mechanism in their respective states. They also highlighted their achievements, lesson learnt, ABS practices, success stories and the challenges faced.