

Coastal Agricultural Resource Inventory: An overview and way forward



ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute

भाकृअनुप - केंद्रीय तटीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

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Foreword



सत्यमेव जयते

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FOREWORD

The coastal region of India is known for its rich diversity of climate, topography, soils, crops, livestock, fisheries, etc. Despite the abundance of natural resources, the productivity of the crops and livestock in this region is poor as compared to the inland areas. Unlike other parts of the Country, the region faces unique problems like demographic pressure, land degradation, deforestation, rapid urbanization and industrialization, environmental pollution, climate change effects like increased frequency of floods, cyclones, droughts, and sea-level rise. Owing to these, coastal agriculture is getting adversely affected, at a time when there is tremendous pressure to cater to the needs of the coastal population. In this regard, a detailed resource inventory on coastal agricultural including natural and genetic resources needs to be developed for formulating the research and developmental programs and policies for sustainable development of this region.

I am happy to learn that ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Old Goa, Goa is bringing out a book entitled “**Coastal Agricultural Resource Inventory: An Overview and Way Forward**” based on the status of different agricultural resources available in the coastal region of the Country. The Book covers various aspects like climate, soils, land-use pattern and land degradation, water resources, production and productivity of different crops and livestock. This compilation will serve as a baseline document for students, researchers, policymakers and many other stakeholders associated with coastal agriculture.


(T. MOHAPATRA)

Dated the 31st July, 2020
New Delhi

Message



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30.07.2020

Message

The coastal ecosystem is one of the most fragile ecosystems and highly vulnerable to climate aberrations. There are several constraints posing threat to agriculture and allied activities in this region under the changing climatic scenarios. Important among these are frequency and intensity of natural disasters like cyclones, floods, landslides, drought, etc., sea-level rise, high demographic pressure, deforestation, coastal erosion and accretion, low productivity of the field and horticultural crops, and livestock, over-exploitation of the fishery resources, unplanned tourism activities, coastal pollution, biodiversity loss etc. The characteristics of the West and East coast are different and need to be addressed with different approaches. To address the problems and constraints of this region, a detailed resource inventory on coastal agriculture needs to be developed for priority setting of research and developmental activities. Consequent upon upgradation of ICAR Research Complex for Goa to ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI), and the discussion that happened during brainstorming sessions and meetings, a need was felt to develop a detailed account of coastal resource endowment and inventory. I appreciate the efforts by ICAR-CCARI team for bringing out a 'Coastal Agricultural Resource Inventory', and I believe that it would be very much useful for planning the way forward for sustainable development of the coastal agriculture and allied sectors.

(S. K. Chaudhari)

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Authors

Preface

The population of the coastal districts (75) of India is about 16.16% of the total population (Census of India, 2011). India has a coastline length of 8413 km (5778 km for mainland and 2635 km for island). Coastal and island ecosystems are one of the most fragile ecosystems and vulnerable to the climate change. There are several constraints posing threat to the agriculture and allied activities. Important among these are higher frequency and intensity of the natural disasters like cyclones, flooding, landslides, drought, etc., climate change and sea level rise, drainage congestions, high demographic pressure, deforestation, coastal erosion and accretion, low productivity of the field and horticultural crops and livestock, over-exploitation of the fishery resources, unplanned tourism activities, coastal pollution, etc.

Coastal ecosystem being most vulnerable to climate change, a systematic assessment of coastal agriculture needs to be carried out. The characteristics of the west and east coast are typically different and need to be addressed with different approaches. To address the problems and constraints of this region, a detailed resource inventory about coastal agriculture needs to be developed for priority setting of research and developmental activities. Consequent upon upgradation of ICAR Research Complex for Goa to ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI), and the discussion that happened during brainstorming sessions and meetings, a need was felt to develop such an inventory. Initially, a detailed resource (natural and genetic) inventory about coastal agriculture as Coastal Agricultural Resource Inventory needs to be developed. It would be vital for priority setting of research and policy decisions. The book entitled 'Coastal Agricultural Resource Inventory: An introduction and way forward', we believe, would be very useful for planning the way forward for sustainable development of the coastal agriculture and allied sectors.

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