Biodiversity COP-11

(From Left) Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conservation, UNEP, T Chatterjee, Secretary, MoEF, Masamichi Saigo, Representative of CoP MoP 5, Japan, Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests, ESL Narasimhan, Governor, Minnie Mathew, Chief Secretary, Braulio Fe Dias, Exec Secretary, CBD, UN, participating at the Conference of Parties (CoP -11) at HICC, Hyderabad on Monday.

Subsidise recharging of soil

INTERVIEW

T P Venu

Prof Hans Harren, president of Millennium Institute, Washington DC, USA and President of Biovision Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland has been credited with saving millions of lives in Africa by enabling the people to produce the food they need. He developed a successful biological control programme which saved the African cassava crop and averted a food crisis. He was awarded the World Food Prize in 1995. In the Hyderabad for a conference on 'Can GM crops meet India's food security and exports markets?' he spoke on the need for sustainable agricultural practices and sees the solution in organic farming.

Prof Hans Harren

One of the reasons people support GM crops is due to the ever increasing population which is estimated to touch 9 billion mark by 2050. Your comments?

We grow more than twice the food we need today and a major portion is wasted. The food grains rotting in the godowns in India are a fine example. Today, we produce enough food to feed 14 billion people. A person needs 2300 calories per day but we produce 4600 calories per person a day. The problem is not of enough but of access. The questions that we need to ask are: what we grow, where it is grown and by whom? India, for example can double its production by agro-ecological methods. There is a need for a paradigm shift.

How can that happen?

By proper soil management, crop rotation, not using pesticides and restoring soil fertility. Organic farming is soil building. Alliances and investments around agriculture need to be developed in rural areas that include stakeholders to bring in the transition. A holistic approach is necessary and it is the responsibility of the government to fund and promote sustainable practices. Local needs are to be given priority and a participatory approach is needed.

The issue of subsidy is lopsided. Subsidy is given for fertilizers; instead it should be given to recharge the soil. There is a need for proper pricing of the products. Increase in food prices will ensure security and safety to the farmers. We need to ask a fundamental question. For whom are we decreasing the prices of food? For the urban population?

GM technology has been applied to crops for over three decades. What are the lessons learnt? Give three reasons for not going in for Genetically Modified (GM) crops?

It is proven beyond reasonable doubt that GM crops do not increase yields. In the first few years they help cut production costs but insects and weeds surface and one consistently spends money year after year. Even in the US engineered genes in crops like Bt and herbicide tolerant corn have provided only 3-4 per cent yield increase.

Secondly, there is a cumulative pesticide increase where GM crops are grown and has a huge negative impact on the health. GM crops being sprayed by herbicide has led to the spread of herbicide resistant superweeds which has resulted in farmers being exposed to toxic chemicals. Thirdly, GMOs will produce cheaper food is a big hoax. Industrial agriculture cannot survive without subsidy.

Organic and ecological agriculture can feed the world. Organic agriculture builds its own fertility and is not dependent on external factors.

Small farmers are becoming dependent on big corporations. How does he come out of their clutches?

Farmers need support to grow their own healthy food. There is a need to provide them with information, know-how, provide access to markets and share sustainable agricultural practices. Agriculture is not just production of food. The way ahead is to work in an integrated and holistic manner. The farmer has to be paid for eco-system services he renders. Sustainable production is the only way to food security in the long term. What we need is resilient cropping patterns without depending on seeds from external sources. GM crop seeds will not be free forever. Eventually corporations will enforce patents and the farmer will be left without a choice. The answer of not falling into the trap is in going back to traditional farming practices.

What are the solutions for sustainable farming?

There is a need for an integrated production system that maintains diversity. Factory type mechanized production is to be replaced with a system that is holistic. The integration of livestock into farming systems, increase crop diversity, to find space for animals, forests and farms and provide incentives to farmers for maintaining the eco-system is vital. To provide insurance to farmers and information on climate variations so that he can use various crop varieties depending on the climate forecast.

You said that research in agriculture should be in the public sector. Why?

It is the responsibility of the government to see there is food security. Independent research can only be possible with the right policies. It is not how to produce more but to produce more in a sustainable way. Better water and soil management, integrated production systems with the farmer at the centre is needed. Food is a human right and the farmer has the right to choose what he wants to grow keeping the local needs in mind. Seeds belong to all and not to a few public companies.

Think local and act global: Bakary Kante

Our Bureau

BakaryKante

Hyderabad: Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conservation, UNEP, said that India has been making all out efforts for the last three years to protect biodiversity in the country.

Addressing CBD of Conference of Parties-11 on Monday, Kante said that the developing countries should implement economic growth oriented programmes by sustaining biodiversity. He said that all countries have to use the resources effectively for sustainable development as well as recognise natural resources and biodiversity as global public goods.

Saying that all countries have the responsibility to educate our trade negotiators to incorporate this into terms of trade, he said: "We are all familiar with the idea of 'think global, act local'. Global environmental governance systems are based on this principle, but the time has come for us to revisit its relevance in the world.

UNEP Exec Secy stresses capacity bldg by countries

Patan Afzal Babu

Hyderabad: United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Executive Secretary Braulio Ferreire De Souza on Monday said that the CoP MoP 6 conference would provide an opportunity to lay new strategies for the Cartagena protocol adopted in 2000 and Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur supplementary protocol came into force in 2010.

Addressing the press on the sidelines the Conference of Parties (CoP -11) kick started at HICC here, De Souza said that the Cartagena Protocol was enforced in 2003 while the Nagoya Supplementary protocol on Liability and Redress received 51 signatures and two ratifications by March 2012 when it was closed for signature. The meeting will take note of the status of the Supplementary Protocol in terms of the number of signature and ratification it has received so far.

The meeting will encourage parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to expedite their domestic ratification or accession process so that the Supplementary protocol will enter into force as soon as possible.

Braulio Ferreire De Souza

In the five day meeting, delegates will discuss the issues relating to - Capacity Building, the Biosafety clearing house , the financial mechanism and resources for the protocol's implementation, risk assessment and risk management, socio economic considerations concerning Living Modified Organism (LMOs), compliance with the protocol's provisions as well as assessment and finally review the effectiveness of the protocol.

"The decisions taken on all these issues are expected to contribute to the realization of the vision of the strategic plan: making Biological Diversity adequately protected from any adverse affects of LMOs ", he said it also expected to elect two nominees from each UN region for membership in the Compliance Committee to replace those members of the committee whose term is due to end by the end of this year.

De Souza said that the parties and other government organizations and relevant organizations to undertake further research on the socio-economic impacts of LMOs and to share outcomes of their research. And the meeting will establish an experts group to continue the work on socio- economic considerations by undertaking specific tasks.

The officials said that some 2000 delegates from more than 160 countries were attending the sixth meeting of the CoP-11 serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CoP MoP 6).

Sikh family of 4 found murdered in Belgium

London (Agencies): In a grisly incident, four members of a Sikh family, including three children, have been found murdered in their home in Belgium's capital city of Brussels.

All the four victims, who hailed from Punjab, had their throats cut, a report from Brussels said on Monday.

The gruesome discovery was made when the father Jasbir Singh returned home in the Brussels municipality of Etterbeek from the restaurant where he worked on Friday night, Belgian media reported.

Singh, 39, found the children aged three, five and seven, and his wife dead.

"When I turned on the lights, I saw blood everywhere," Singh was quoted by RTL-TVI television as saying.

THE HANS INDIA
• Hyderabad • Visakhapatnam • Vijayawada • Tirupati • Warangal
For Prompt Supply of copy at your doorstep every morning please contact :
Head Office : 040-49494554
97055 55551

You are the world and the world is you: Guv

Special Correspondent

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan said that the mother earth would protect you if you protect the nature.

Addressing the CoP-11 on Monday, Narasimhan said that every ancient civilization had a holistic and inclusive vision and their all encompassing love embraced all living and non-living forms as well.

"In a sense, the planet earth is seen as a sustainer of life nourishing, nurturing and regulating life. Out of this vision is born the concept of earth as a mother. Every civilization and culture not surprisingly shares this common outlook," he said adding, "in its benediction, peace is invoked for the earth, for the skies, for the waters, for the heavens and unto the herbs and trees and finally to "Brahma- the creator."

He hoped that the deliberations of CoP-11 would represent the concerns as well as wisdom gleaned from all the continents.

He said that the global community has high expectations that this convention, while addressing the essential concern of sustainability of life in all its richness, would unveil a consensus as to what is the road ahead for all of us collectively as humanity.

"Our generation is a witness to a quantum change that has changed the face of life and mostly for the better. Disease and hunger that ravaged the world during the course of human history, is an aberration now which we can tackle collectively as nation-states.

Life expectancies have gone up and the world population has exceeded 7 billion", he said.

Balance growth with biosafety

From Page 1

Let us allay the apprehensions and reach a consensus," she said.

Recalling that India has already signed the supplementary protocol on liabilities last year, the minister urged all other countries to fast track ratification. She observed that it was not an easy task to balance modern technology and impact on bio-safety. She highlighted significant accomplishments and challenges of the global community in tackling issues of biosafety, biotechnology and biodiversity.

Citing the lack of resources and capacity building as reasons for slow progress, she emphasised the need for parties to conduct scientifically enabled risk-assessment by each country suitable to their contexts. "We are fortunate to have with us several personalities today with specialisation on various aspects of biosafety who have graciously accepted our invitation to share their wisdom and knowledge," she said.

"There are no short-cuts in achieving this balance. LMO is a controversial issue with concerns on long-term impact on ecology and conservation. We need to follow the protocol in letter and in spirit." She pointed out that investments in biotechnology were increasing significantly in several countries and there was need for science-based regulation in this regard.

Natarajan said: "Over the next five days, I believe that the deliberations will provide an opportunity for the global biodiversity community to review the progress made in the implementation of the decisions made at the last COP MOP in Japan. The momentum built at the COP will address significant issues such as management, safety and trans-boundary movements of LMOs."

"India is a mega diverse country with a strong and vibrant biotechnology industry and, therefore, committed to the implementation of the CPB in a balanced manner," the minister assured the delegates.

Speaking on the occasion Governor E S L Narasimhan emphasised the need for all countries to jointly tackle issues relating to health and hunger. He expressed concern over the threat to the environment due to the extensive use of pesticides in the farming sector.

Narasimhan called upon the conference to hold detailed discussions on the depletion of water resources and decrease in irrigated lands, and come up with suitable remedial measures.

Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said that the CBD had been making efforts to bring all the countries into the COP.

At the five-day meeting, delegates are expected to discuss and adopt further decisions to advance the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan adopted in 2010 and bring into force the Nagoya-Kuala Lampur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

జిల్లా గ్రామీణాభివృద్ధి సంస్థ : తూర్పుగోదావరి : కాకినాడ
(ఇందిరాక్రాంతి పథం)

స్వయం సహాయక సంఘాలు : తూర్పుగోదావరి జిల్లా రాష్ట్ర స్థాయిలోనే కాక దేశంలోనే స్వయం సహాయక సంఘాల ఏర్పాటులో అగ్రస్థానంలో నిలిచింది. ప్రస్తుతము జిల్లాలో 74,231 సంఘాలుకు గాను 7,40,981 మంది మహిళలు సభ్యులుగా ఉన్నారు.

పావలావడ్డీ : పావలావడ్డీ పథకం క్రింద 2011-12 సం॥ములో రూ.44.81 కోట్లు 74,502 సంఘాలకు పావలావడ్డీ రాయితీగా చెల్లించడం జరిగినది.

వడ్డీ లేని ఋణాలు : మహిళా సంఘాలకు బ్యాంకు నుండి తీసుకున్న అప్పులకు పూర్తి వడ్డీ ప్రభుత్వమే భరిస్తుంది. అప్పులకు సంబంధించి అసలు మొత్తము సంఘం కడితే వడ్డీ ప్రభుత్వం భరిస్తుంది. ఈ పథకం క్రింద జిల్లాలో 60,000 సంఘాలకు రూ. 50 కోట్లు వడ్డీ రాయితీని ప్రభుత్వం వారు భరిస్తారు.

పింఛనులు : జిల్లాలో ప్రస్తుతము 4,49,984 పింఛనుదారులకు సుమారు రూ. 12.14 కోట్లు పంపిణీ చేయడం జరుగుచున్నది. ఇందులో

వృద్ధాప్య పింఛనులు	: 212925	వితంతు పింఛనులు	: 131779
చేనేత పింఛనులు	: 8518	వికలాంగుల పింఛనులు	: 60627
కల్లుగీత కార్మిక పింఛనులు	: 2428	అభయహస్తం	: 33707

సదారం క్యాంపు ద్వారా రాష్ట్రం మొత్తం మీద ఈ జిల్లాలో అందరి కంటే ఎక్కువ మందికి అనగా 70,466 మంది వికలాంగులకు వికలాంగ ధృవీకరణ పత్రములు జారీ చేయడమైనది.

స్త్రీ నిధి : మహిళా సంఘాలకు నిజమైన తోడ్పాటు స్త్రీ నిధి. ఇందులో భాగంగా స్వయం సహాయక సంఘాల మహిళలకు అత్యవసరాలకు 48 గంటల లోపే రూ. 15,000/- వరకు వ్యక్తిగత ఋణాలు మంజూరు చేయడం జరుగుచున్నది. ఇప్పటి వరకు జిల్లాలో ఈ పథకం క్రింద 7465 మందికి రూ. 10.87 కోట్లు మంజూరు చేయడం జరిగింది.

స్త్రీ శక్తి భవనములు : 58 మండలములలో మండలానికి ఒక స్త్రీ శక్తి భవనము రూ. 25 లక్షలు వ్యయముతో నిర్మించుట జరుగుచున్నది. ఈ నిర్మాణములు వివిధ దశలలో ఉన్నవి. ఈ భవన నిర్మాణములు డిసెంబరు, 2012 నాటికి పూర్తి అగును.

వై.యస్.ఆర్. అభయహస్తం : వై.యస్.ఆర్. అభయహస్తం క్రింద ఇప్పటి వరకు 3216 మంది నామినీలకు రూ. 8.04 కోట్లు క్లెయిములు మంజూరు చేయడం జరిగింది. ఇందులో 33784 మందికి నెలకు రూ. 500/- చొ॥న పింఛను చెల్లించడం జరుగుచున్నది. ఈ పథకము క్రింద ఈ సంవత్సరములో 35689 మంది విద్యార్థినీ విద్యార్థులకు రూ. 4.28 కోట్లు ఉపకార వేతనముగా మంజూరు చేయడమైనది.

ఆమ్ ఆద్మీ భీమా పథకము : ఈ పథకము క్రింద ఈ సంవత్సరములో 2280 మంది నామినీలకు రూ. 4.63 కోట్లు క్లెయిములు మంజూరు చేయడం జరిగింది. మరియు 16998 మంది విద్యార్థినీ విద్యార్థులకు రూ. 2.03 కోట్లు ఉపకార వేతనముగా మంజూరు చేయడమైనది.

రాజీవ్ యువకిరణాలు : 2012-13లో 27,143 మంది యువతీ యువకులకు వివిధ రంగాలలో ఉపాధి కల్పించుట లక్ష్యంగా నిర్ణయించినారు. ఇందులో భాగంగా ప్రతి శాసనసభ నియోజక వర్గ పరిధిలో అవగాహన సదస్సులు నిర్వహించి, లక్ష్యాన్ని చేరుటకు ప్రణాళికలు చేయడం జరిగింది. అందులో భాగంగా 18 నియోజక వర్గముల పరిధిలో ఈ అవగాహన సదస్సులు నిర్వహించడం జరిగింది. మరియు 4 డివిజన్ హెడ్‌క్వార్టర్లలోను జాబ్ మేళాలు నిర్వహించడం జరిగింది. ఇందులో 1234 మందికి నేరుగా ఉద్యోగ అవకాశములు కల్పించి మరియు 2200 మందికి వివిధ రంగాలలో శిక్షణ ఇవ్వడం జరుగుచున్నది.

ఉన్నత విద్యా : 2012 - 13లో జిల్లాలో 682 నిరుపేద విద్యార్థినీ విద్యార్థులను వివిధ కార్పొరేట్ కళాశాలలో చేర్పించడం జరిగింది.

నిరుపేదల పునరావాసం : నిరుపేదల పునరావాసంలో ఎస్.సి., ఎస్.టి కుటుంబాలు సం॥ములో స్థిరమైన ఆదాయం పొందేలా చేయుటకు జీవనోపాధి అభివృద్ధి కార్యక్రమాలు చేపట్టుట, పి.డి.పి. నిధుల క్రింద 2011-12 సం॥ములో రెండు మండలములలో రూ. 60.10 లక్షలుతో 1500 కుటుంబాలకు వివిధ జీవనోపాధులు ఏర్పాటు చేయడం జరిగింది.

జనరిక్ : వినియోగ దారులకు అందుబాటులో వుంచుటకు గాను 3 జనరిక్ మందుల షాపులను కాకినాడ, రాజమండ్రి, అమలాపురం లలో ఏర్పాటు చేసి మార్కెట్ ధర కన్నా 30% నుండి 80% తగ్గింపు ధరలకు అమ్మడం జరుగుచున్నది. రోజుకు ఈ 3 షాపులకు కలిపి రూ. 18,000/- నుండి రూ. 20,000/- వరకు అమ్మకాలు జరుగుచున్నవి. అదనముగా రామచంద్రపురం, మండపేట, రాజోలు, ముమ్మిడివరం, పి.గన్నవరం, కొత్తపేటలలో ఈ షాపులను ఏర్పాటు చేయులకు ప్రణాళికలు సిద్ధం చేయడం జరుగుచున్నది.

ఆరోగ్యం - పోషణ కార్యక్రమాలు : జిల్లా నందు 13 మండలాల్లో 107 న్యూట్రిషన్ కేంద్రాలు ప్రారంభించి గర్భవతులు, బాలింతలు, 3 సంవత్సరముల లోపు పిల్లలకు మొత్తం 1327 మందికి పూర్తి స్థాయి పౌష్టికాహారం అందించబడుచున్నది.

Brar attacked in London

London (PTI): Retired Lt General K S Brar, who had led "Operation Blue Star" 28 years ago to flush out pro- Khalistani militants in the Golden Temple, was attacked in central London on Sunday night by four knife-wielding assailants, inflicting injuries on him.

The 78-year-old Lt Gen Brar, a Z-category protectee, was returning to his hotel from a dinner along with his wife.

Panel seeks merger of financial regulators

New Delhi (PTI): Suggesting far-reaching legislative reforms in the financial sector, a government-appointed panel on Monday said key regulators like SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA and FMC should be merged into a unified financial agency (UFA).

The Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission, headed by former justice B N Srikrishna, has also suggested setting up of a financial redressal agency (FRA) to address consumer complaints against companies across the financial sector.

The Approach Paper, on which the Commission will seek comments from the stakeholders, underlined the need for establishing an independent debt management office (DMO) and a financial sector appellate tribunal to hear appeals against regulators. "These changes will alter the Indian financial landscape from eight financial regulatory agencies to seven," said the Paper which will form the basis of the report of the Commission which was set up in March 2011 to re-write the legislations affecting the financial markets in the country.

Under the existing architecture, the financial sector is regulated by eight agencies which are RBI, Sebi, IRDA, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Forward Markets Commission (FMC), Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), deposit insurance agency DICGC and Financial Sector Development Council (FSDC).

As per the proposal, there would be five new agencies besides Reserve Bank and FSDC. The new ones would be UFA, FSAT, FRA, DMO and Resolution Corporation.

Printed and Published by K. Ramachandra Murthy, Editor-in-Chief, on behalf of Hyderabad Media House Limited, Plot No:6, Anupuram Colony, Dr.A.S.Rao Nagar, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy District - 500 062 and Printed at Jagati Publications Limited, Survey No: 127, Block No: 12, Mallapur (V), Uppal Mandal, Ranga Reddy District - 506 151. Editor: P.N.V. Nair, (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Tel: +91 40 49494545. RNI No: APENG/2011/38858