

National Training Program for Rice Conservators Phase – 2

(Booting to Maturity of Rice Plant)

The phase 2 of the Rice characterization workshop was scheduled from 15th Oct to 19th of Oct



2013 and organized by OFAI, Basudha and Living Farms. Due to the cyclonic activity that hit many coastal areas in Odisha, many trains got delayed and canceled. Therefore, we had to postpone our workshop by a week and reschedule it from 29th Oct to 1st of Nov 2013. This time too there were heavy rains and many trains coming from the South were cancelled but still the enthusiast participants managed to make alternative arrangements, and

finally 13 participants managed to turn up for this unique workshop. A “Natural selection” of participants had occurred because of the cyclone. However, many participants from Odisha from the cyclone affected areas were not able to come due to heavy losses in their fields as well as home grounds. Debal’s farm was also affected to a certain extent by cyclone but not to an extent as the coastal areas. Few weak rice varieties among Debal’s in situ seed bank had laid down but otherwise, the hut and farm looked as beautiful as ever in the Niyamgiri hills with a bright sunlight surprisingly from a day before our workshop.

Committed participants who were for the phase 1 of this workshop continued for this phase as well and were from Assam, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil nadu. Participants from Odisha who managed to come were attending this workshop for the first time and were unable to understand Hindi as well as English. A translator was arranged for the Odiya participants. Two participants managed to arrive to the venue till noon of the first day due to the havoc among train timings and hence all participants continued with a revision session of phase 1. Phase 2 of the workshop started at 12:00 PM on Day 1.

Theoretical explanation of all the descriptors during the booting to maturity stage of rice plant was described on day 1. All questions related to phase 1 were also addressed during this day. The day ended with two short documentaries on Debal's work of rice conservation.



On the 30th Oct, all went to Debal's farm where we all were introduced to the descriptors of rice. It was an experience to document all these crucial characters while standing in the slippery slew of mud and that too for all the 900 varieties is just unimaginable. The list of descriptors with their code is attached at the end of this report. We made 4 groups with 3-4 participants with an expert each from Debal's team of assistants along with Debal. On the first day of field we were taught about the characters while in the next two days of field we practiced documenting these characters for 10-15 varieties per group. We were constantly under Debal's monitoring and supervision. All doubts and questions were addressed till the participant was satisfied with a rational answer. Last day after the field we had an indoor discussion on problems faced by him regarding the registration of folk seed rice varieties through PPVRA.



The entire workshop has been video documented by an efficient camera member of OFAI, Ms. Shubhada Pandhre Patil. A video is getting ready as a resource material, an outcome of this workshop which can be later translated in various languages for local use. Phase 1 resource material (not video) is getting ready in atleast 3 languages (Odiya, Kanada and Marathi). Video resource material will be shared with the participants in due course.

Last phase of the same workshop has been scheduled from 25th Dec to 28th of Dec 2013 for four days. Participants need to arrive in Muniguda on the 24th evening. Please book your train tickets in advance and deposit your registration fee towards stay and food at the rate of Rs. 400/ day / person in advance in the OFAI account. To confirm your participation please write to Ms. Shamika Mone at myofaiatgmail.com.

