

Traditional Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation, Maintain Ecosystem Services and Livelihood Security in the Context of Climate Change: Case Studies from West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT India is facing the challenge and threat of climate change that has serious consequences on the food and livelihood security of people depending on climate sensitive livelihood practices. The close association and dependence of the indigenous and rural people on natural ecosystems have developed their acumen to identify any changes in the nature and to develop adaptive measures under climatic variability. Such Traditional Knowledge can provide critical insights to develop climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies that are cost-effective, participatory, and sustainable. This is recognized at the highest bodies at the international level also. The present paper is prepared based on the studies conducted in four districts of West Bengal, India to assess the traditional knowledge and practices of the local people for conservation of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services that can help in designing adaptive measures, ensure livelihood security and heighten resilience under climatic stress.