

# BioDIVA

Transformation knowledge  
towards gender-equitable and  
sustainable use of agrobiodiversity

## Start-up Workshop April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010

BioDIVA Research Group  
Leibniz Universität Hannover  
Institute of Environmental Planning  
Herrenhäuser Strasse 2  
30419 Hannover



- 09:00|REGISTRATION
- 09:30|Introduction and welcome speeches
- 10:15|Genetic erosion and degradation of ecosystem services  
of wetland rice fields: a case study from Western Ghats, India  
*Dr. Anil Kumar / M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai*
- 10:45|COFFEE BREAK (30 minutes)
- 11:15|BioDIVA - Transformation knowledge for gender-equitable  
and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity  
*Dr. habil Martina Padmanabhan, Leibniz Universität Hannover*
- 12:15|SOUTH INDIAN SNACKS (1 hour)
- 13:15|Integration in sustainability research  
*Dr. Matthias Bergmann, Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Frankfurt  
Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin*
- 13:45|Gender and agrobiodiversity  
*Prof. em Janet Molsen, University of California, Davis*
- 14:15|The Economics of ecosystems and biodiversity  
*Dr. Heidi Wittmer, Centre for Environmental Research UFZ, Leipzig*
- 14:45|People and Pixels - old gaps or new bridges?  
Linking empirical studies to a land use model  
*PD Dr. Sylvia Herrmann/Dr. Karin Berkhoff, Leibniz Universität Hannover*
- 15:15|COFFEE BREAK (30 minutes)
- 15:45|Panel discussion: Transdisciplinarity- a paradigm shift in academia?  
*Chair: Dr. Anja Christinck*
- 17:00|RECEPTION at the bauBAR

The rapid loss of agrobiodiversity poses a serious challenge as it leads to a decline of crop varieties and threatens practical knowledge in food cultivation systems. The genetic erosion in agriculture in developing countries is accelerated through the growing demand for food, water and land. As a result, uncoordinated land use aggravates the degradation of natural resources. The loss of landraces hits particularly women who use and conserve agrobiodiversity through their local knowledge on food security and income generation.

As a first step to approach this dilemma, we invite you to discuss the challenge of gender-equitable and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. This start-up event marks the departure of a four-year inter- and transdisciplinary inquiry on the social-ecological perspectives of agrobiodiversity at the case of rice in India. Introducing you to the fieldsite in the uplands of Kerala, we seek to explore the multipledimensions of the

BioDIVA research endeavour. While sociology, gender studies and economics offer insights from social sciences; ecology and land-use modelling support an integrated understanding from the natural sciences. In order to achieve a transformation towards a gender-equitable and sustainable future, we foster transdisciplinary knowledge through integrating practical experience by local female and male farmers and by MSSRF, gtz and IFPRI.

**Confirmation requested until 6th April 2010**  
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**Venue:**  
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Moderator: Dr. Anja Christinck / seed4change consulting

