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**Aide memoire**

<b><i>Session</i></b>	Session 5 – Interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture: Part III – Planning for a changing climate
<b><i>Title of presentation</i></b>	Conserving local varieties and landraces: Agrobiodiversity in climate change adaptation
<b><i>Name of presenter</i></b>	Ms. Asta M. Tamang, Head of the Plant Genetic Resources Program, National Biodiversity Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan

***Abstract***

Bhutan is a small country in the Himalayas with outstanding landscapes of natural environment with topography ranging from 100 to over 7,500 masl making Bhutan rich in biodiversity. Despite Bhutan’s alternate socioeconomic development model of Gross National Happiness (GNH), robust biodiversity conservation policies & actions, 72% of total land under forest cover, organic and low input agriculture, carbon neutral, yet Bhutan is bearing the brunt of consequences of climate change. Since Agriculture supports livelihood of about 56.7 per cent of the population, impact of climate change on agriculture is posing significant implication for a country with majority of population reliant on agriculture. Therefore ‘Conserving local varieties and landraces’ is one among many other adaption action areas (AAA) to adapt to climate change in Bhutan. A series of interventions to promote and maintain on-farm diversity have been made producing a wide range of visible impact in the field.

***Key considerations***

- Value addition through product development, packaging, creating market demand serves as triggers to conserve local crop diversity and enhance farming ecosystem resilience.

***Key discussion points and conclusions***

- Need for increasing competitiveness and value of landraces
- Need for studying the impact in ecosystem services
- Need for taking floristic approach of on-farm conservation
- Need for research about the agronomic characteristics, nutrient properties, molecular analysis etc.

***Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions***

- How climate change might affect the sustainability of on-farm conservation of landraces?