

Shinshu University International Seminar 2011

**in commemoration of conclusion of Agreement for Academic Cooperation and Exchange
between Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University and Nepal Agricultural Research
Council**

ネパール農業研究評議会との学術交流協定締結記念

「中山間地域の再生・持続モデル構築のための実証的研究」プロジェクト国際セミナー

Utilization and Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in Hilly and Mountainous Areas

- Current Status and Prospect in Nepal, Bhutan and Japan -

中山間地域における植物遺伝資源の利用と保全

-ネパール及びブータンと日本における現状と課題-

Proceedings

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Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University

Ina, Nagano, Japan

Preface

Shinshu University International Seminar 2011, entitled “Utilization and Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in Hilly and Mountainous Area – Current Status and Prospect in Nepal, Bhutan and Japan–” was held on September 20, 2011 at Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University, Ina, Nagano to commemorate the conclusion of Agreement for Academic Cooperation and Exchange between Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University and Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal. This seminar is also a part of open seminars by Shinshu University Mountainous Areas Research Project (SUMARP) aiming for reconstruction and sustainable development of community in hilly and mountainous areas.

One of the most important problems for human being in the 21st century is food supply, and it must be solved by breeding of high yielding variety. Therefore utilization and conservation of plant genetic resources (PGR) are common interest under Fair and Equitable Access and Benefit Sharing on Genetic Resources (ABS) system (CBD COP-10, 2010), because PGR is an indispensable material for breeding.

Nepal and Bhutan are neighboring countries locating at the Himalayan southeastern foot and have wide geographical variation from northern high Himalayan Mountains to southern sub-tropical lowland area. As a result both countries have evolved abundant PGR in wide biological diversity. Historically Nepal has opened access to its PGR to foreign country, in contrast, Bhutan has closed the country for long time and access to its PGR has been strictly closed to foreign country until today. On the other hand, Japan has introduced a lot of PGR from developing countries including Nepal and developed improved varieties using them in many crop species, but has lost many domestic PGR due to genetic erosion through prevalence of improved varieties.

On above historical background, three research scientists presented lectures on perspectives on PGR in Nepal, Bhutan and Japan from each standpoint in the seminar. Information exchange and serious discussion among lecturers and audiences contributed not only to understanding of sustainable use and conservation of PGR under ABS system but also to promotion of SUMARP, because indigenous local variety, namely PGR is an essential component of life and culture in each community as well as a valuable resource for community development.

I strongly believe that this seminar will promote academic cooperation and exchange between Shinshu University and Nepal Agriculture Research Council.

This seminar was sponsored by The Committee of International Exchange, Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University. We wish to express our sincere thanks for their support.

Professor Mineo Minami
Chairman, Organizing Committee
December 15, 2011

Organizing Committee
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