Visit the Royal Horticultural Expo and learn how to showcase the importance of horticultural biodiversity and create linkages and networks for future collaborations between researchers, farmers, policy makers and organizations;

Promote cross-culture, cross-country, cross-region and cross-GEF project dialogue, sharing and learning;

Experiment with informal social learning tools and methodologies for knowledge sharing with contrasting stakeholders;

Identify ideas and lessons learned for the dissemination of global public goods from the visit and translate into action plans in respective countries;

Build capacity of all stakeholders.

**Programme**

**Day 1 (12 March 2012): NPSC Meeting Thailand: learning from the host country (Venue: the Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel)**

**Day 2 (13 March 2012): Visit to the International Horticultural Exposition: Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand and other interested areas identified by the host followed by cross-country informal sharing and learning dialogue between participants of TPTG Project (India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) and UNEP GEF Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) participants**

**Day 3 (14 March 2012): Cross learning**

Morning: Display of Regional Posters, Videos and Products on Selected Good Practices of UNEP GEF TPTG for diversity and UNEP GEF Temperate fruits projects to promote informal sharing and learning of knowledge, technologies and practices (Venue: the Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel)

Afternoon: Dialogue and discussion on the event:

What were the eye openers and what inspired them the most?

What were the new ideas or key lessons learnt?

What actions do the participants plan for implementation from the lessons learnt?

The methodology and guideline of “Knowledge Share Fair and travelling seminar” will be circulated separately to the participants.

**Tropical Fruits Tree Knowledge Share Fair 2012**

**Participants**

In order to achieve outcome 3 of the project, this event is planned to bring in participants from 1) two UNEP GEF projects (Tropical fruits, South and SE Asia and Temperate fruits, Central Asia), 2) “Champion/custodian” farmer who can act as the “Agent of Change” for the project in the sites, 3) National Project Coordinator or assigned project manager, 3) Chair, National Project steering Committee of the respective country or assigned representative. The selected champion farmer or local NGO focal point should be able to demonstrate leadership skills by implementing lessons learned into action by him/her (“walk the talk”) and motivate other community members to follow the same.

**Venue**

NPSC Meeting and Poster/Product Display:
Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel
23 Huay Kaew Road, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand.
Tel: 0-5322-2099, 0-5322-2091-3
Fax: 0-5322-1625
Email: res@chiangmaiorchid.com
Website: http://www.chiangmaiorchid.com/location.html

Visit to the Expo:
The Royal Horticultural Expo Ratchaphruek 2011 site in Chiangmai
Background

In Asia, small-scale fruit tree farmers have a wealth of knowledge and technical skills in cultivating different species and different varieties of fruit trees. With demand growing for tropical fruits in local, regional and global markets, opportunities clearly exist for increasing farmers’ incomes and safeguarding food security by capitalizing on the value of this diversity.

In coordination with UNEP GEF, Biodiversity International jointly with Department of Agriculture, Thailand is organizing a 3-day event entitled, “Cross-country TFT Knowledge Share Fair 2012” for conservation and sustainable use of tropical fruit tree diversity to be held during the Royal Horticultural Expo, Chiang Mai, Thailand from 12-14 March, 2012.

Department of Agriculture, Thailand is one of the executing country partners of the regional UNEP GEF Project, “Conservation and sustainable use of cultivated and wild tropical fruit diversity: promoting sustainable livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services (TFT)”. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indonesian Centre for Horticulture Research and Development (ICHORD) and Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI) are the other executing partners. The project works with about 15,000 households in 36 communities of four countries to find ways to conserve and manage tropical fruit diversity sustainably while meeting the needs of rural people. Project interventions build and strengthen capacities of farmers and local communities to assess, evaluate and implement good practices that increase the value of tropical fruit tree genetic resources.

This project is working to establish a platform that integrates farmers’ traditional knowledge and skills for maintaining fruit tree diversity into more formal conservation efforts undertaken by national agencies. The overall objective of the project is to improve the in situ and on farm conservation of tropical fruit tree genetic diversity in ways that bring tangible benefits to farming communities.

The project targets two globally important (citrus and mango) and two regionally important tropical fruit tree crops (mangosteen and rambutan). All four countries have unique food cultures that have contributed to creating this fruit diversity. However, no single country has the full range of genetic diversity of any of these fruits. By working together, partners in the four countries will benefit from sharing resources, knowledge, skills and experience. Another benefit of a regional project such as this is to learn from cross-learning process and replicate new ideas, experiences and adapt to local situation (local innovation) by building national and international collaboration and cooperation to solve common problems and discussions on exchange of knowledge and practices and eventually actual exchange, which is currently nonexistent. The basic concept of the event is to showcase examples of good knowledge sharing practices in the field of horticultural development and food security and highlight importance of traditional local fruit diversity in the agricultural development. The informal event will facilitate to strengthen collaboration among partner countries to exchange information and cross learning (outcome 3 of the project: Stakeholders have the capacity and the leadership skills to apply good practices for managing tropical fruit tree diversity for sustainable livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services).

Purpose

The Knowledge Share Fair 2012 will provide an interactive experience, allowing “Champion” farmer (the Change Agent), project managers and policy makers of two similar projects from South and South East Asia (4 countries) and Central Asia (5 countries) to:

- Display posters and local products on selected good practices for sharing and learning from each others’ good practices for diversity management;