

Call to decentralise planning

'Develop local natural resource institutions and promote innovation'

Special Correspondent

UDHAGAMANDALAM: The need to decentralize planning and the process of decision making was emphasised by the Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, R. Vijaykumar while addressing an international conference on "Biodiversity and Livelihoods" organised by the Kottagiri-based Keystone Foundation at Coonoor on Friday.

Participation

Stating that local natural resource institutions should be developed, he said that innovation, thinking and participation should be promoted.

Adverting to the significance of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), he said that *inter alia* it was an ideal habitat for indigenous bees.

He commended the Keystone Foundation for its in-depth work on bees.

The Field Director, Mudu-



SHARING THEIR VIEWS: *Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, R. Vijaykumar (second left) and the Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Rajiv K. Srivastava (second right) interacting with delegates at a conference in Coonoor on Friday.*

— PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

malai Tiger Reserve, Rajiv K. Srivastava said that in matters concerning conservation and livelihoods, the government, the civil society and research institutions should

work in tandem.

Advocating location-specific planning, he said that while dealing with bees, exotic predators should be identified.

Adam Pain of the University of East Anglia said that the research methods adopted and the thinking process should be oriented towards providing sustainable solutions to problems relating to biodiversity and livelihoods.

The view of economists alone should not form the basis for planning in these matters.

Species

Nicola Bradbear of the Bees for Development, United Kingdom pointed out that the three year project, 'Bees, Biodiversity and Forest Livelihoods in the NBR' that had been funded by the United Kingdom's Darwin Initiative had revealed a great deal of information vis-à-vis bees, she said that the NBR should continue to remain free of exotic bee species which affect local ecology.

She pointed out that in some other parts of India exotic bee species were becoming dominant.

'Combine modern technology with traditional ecological knowledge'

To ensure sustainable livelihood development and serve ecological needs

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UDHAGAMANDALAM: A three-day international conference on 'Biodiversity and Livelihoods', organised by the Kottagiri-based Keystone Foundation in association with the Overseas Development Group of the University of East Anglia, Bees for Development and the Centre for Agri-Environmental Research of the University of Reading, got underway at Coonoor on Thursday.

Addressing the participants, P.S.Ramakrishnan of the

School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi underscored the need to intertwine formal ecological knowledge with traditional ecological knowledge.

Inputs

Pointing out that traditional ecological knowledge was not static, he said that modern technologies should be buffered with traditional knowledge inputs.

Stating that a mix of the two would serve social and ecological needs, he said that

it would ensure sustainable livelihood development.

Globalisation will create food security uncertainties in the developing world, he warned and added that a significant part of the Indian population was vulnerable to global warming.

Adverting to the conference, he said that such efforts were important but ways to increase the reach should be evolved.

Listing the objectives of the conference, the Director, Keystone Foundation Pratim Roy said that it marked the

end of a three-year project funded by the Darwin Initiative of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Inter-dependence

It dealt with the subject of interdependency among bees, biodiversity and livelihoods.

Among the participants were Janet Seeley and Adam Pain of the Overseas Development Group, anthropologist Gunnel Cederlof and Philip Mulley, an authority on the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.