

## Editorial

# Eastern Himalayas: Research and Sustainable Development

**Hirendra Nath Sarma**

Editor-in-Chief

Email: hirendra.sarma@rgu.ac.in

The Great Mount Himalayas is known as the epicenter of thought and philosophy of Indian civilization written in many Indian ancient epics and scriptures with vibrant descriptions. It is described as divine land (Devabhumi) of Lord "Shiva" with mother "Gouri". The deep sense of scientific base and thought illustrated years of yore in ancient Indian scriptures has been endorsed in many scientific literatures of the 21st century including the biological science. In many of such Indian epics and scriptures, the Himalayas is described as holy with its various natural resources, beginning with the origin of holy river, lakes and caves in the high altitude snow covered zone, invaluable gems and crystals in crevices of rocks and stones to life saving herbal medicines for humanity. The Glory of this great mountain is mentioned in many of the great Indian literatures in different forms of thoughts. These descriptions are evidenced by the existences of snow covered white mountain peaks, the sources of holy rivers and pure water, lakes, shrines and associated folklore of native people.

This great mountain stretches from western Karakoram to the eastern Patkai of Indo-Myanmar south-east Asian zone. The entire Himalayan zone is inhabited by groups of civilization since ancient time as their native place. They are using the natural resources available in their locality for livelihood; thus becoming the "sons of soil" and stakeholders as well as part of the Himalayan ecosystem. However, increasing demands on the natural resources bring the need of framing rules, anywhere on the earth. The International Organizations thus, have come up with plans of "Sustainable Development Goals" for the benefit of mankind across the globe from deep ocean bed to Mount Everest of Himalaya for the conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources.

The Himalayan region has been described as one of the "World's Biodiversity Hot Spots" with its unique ecosystems, environments, floral, faunal and microbial existence. In the recent decades many of these biotic and abiotic resources have been described as new to science. The endemic species, which are native of the Himalayan zone and not available in any other part of world have been describe. Though many are reported in scientific literature, monumental challenges of harnessing science in biology, geology, meteorology, hydrology and other unknown areas of the Himalayan zones still remain.

Over the past years, pattern of the society and life with people's livelihood have changed in the region of the Mount Himalayas and its environment and natural resources should be protected for posterity. However, with the changing needs and quality of life, exploration of natural resources for more and more human uses has been increased. To meet the increasing demands for natural resources, a planned road map for resource utilization is a must required process now. Looking at the human benefit, eradication of poverty, hunger and diseases, the Government and various leading International Organizations have adopted policies for the Sustainable Development of society as well as management of natural resources. The United Nations has come up with 17 goals of sustainable development of the society, aiming at resource management, mitigation of climate change and creating educated disease free society with quality of life. Hence, our research and planning must address these goals.

Due to the existence of Himalayas, the south Asian region including the Indian subcontinent experiences wet, humid climatic conditions, world's heaviest rainfall in the world, biggest river island of north east India as well as rich fertile

basin as agricultural zone. The Government of India has eloped the plan for sustainable development, especially in the Eastern Himalayan region. Development of agricultural sector has been given priority. However, many other areas of the Mount Himalayas need exploration, documentation and plan of development. Establishment of more educational and research institutions for Himalayan studies and research should

be given priority and the outcomes of the education and research on the Himalayas should reach the people, benefit them and achieve the sustainable Development Goals by 2030 of the United Nations.

**Reference:**

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Report, 2019

**Hirendra Nath Sarma**

Professor of Zoology, Rajiv Gandhi University

Arunachal Pradesh - 791 112, India

Phone : +91 94360 59038