



BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

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Biodiversity is “the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.” It is the foundation of life on Earth -International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2011[1].

A persons livelihood refers according to the Oxford Dictionary of English[2] is that “means of securing the basic necessities –food, water, shelter and clothing of life”. It is also defined as a group of endeavors including attainment of food, shelter, cloth, medicine to encounter the necessities of the self on a sustainable basis with dignity. A livelihood is an endeavor of making living. It comprises of abilities, wealth, and deeds to obtain the requirements of life.

Sustainable livelihood was proposed earlier by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development and this thought was broadened the aim of eradicating poverty and supporting the accomplishment of sustainable livelihood by the United Nations Conference On Environment and Development in 1992 [3].

Sustainable livelihood at household (rural) level was defined by Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway in 1992 [4] as” *A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term*”.