

Einladung zum Kolloquium

Natural resource management and its linkages to Women's Development in India's northeast

Vortrag im Rahmen der „Crossroads-Asia Lectures“

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One of the world's biodiversity hotspot, the North East region (NER) of India, is endowed with rich minerals, forest wealth, wildlife and water resources. However, NER's unique ecosystem is degenerating because of commercial logging, rampant hunting, and human induced development (mining, dam construction, highways, etc).

This presentation focuses on natural resource management and its linkages to women's development – Initiatives of NEN in Nagaland. Nagaland is one state of the NER which represents few aspects of the above. The State has a large rural population whose main livelihood is subsistence and ecological agriculture. Traditionally both men and women farmers are engaged in family farming, however in recent times, the trend of 'Feminization' and "Masculinization" of agriculture have made way into the agricultural landscape of the State. While most men have shifted to cash-based livelihood, most women are solely managing the entire family farming operations. Despite playing the main role in conserving the genetic agro-biodiversity and being involved in 60-75% of all farming related work, women remain invisible as farmers and not recognized and supported. Women's control over land resources is negligible if not completely absent, and they continued to be marginalized in decision making.

Interventions in both formal and informal institutions are crucial for a society to grow. In the context of NRM we have made progress in weaving sustainable livelihood options into our programmes on one hand and engaging the Church, Village Councils, Youths, Women groups, educational institutions and the Government. Transferring knowledge and skills of protecting and managing their own resources, and promoting women's participation in decision making processes may reduce the threats of marginalization and pave the way towards a sustainable future of the communities.