

About the editors

Ratan Lal Banik has been working as a Forest Geneticist in Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Chittagong since 1969. Presently he is the Chief of the Forest Management Branch of BFRI and responsible for guiding and monitoring the different scientific studies under the branch including farming system research, social forestry and economics. He has been actively conducting research on bamboo silviculture, genetics and propagation, bio-diversities and conservation. Dr. Banik is also the co-chairperson of the INBAR/IPGRI Working Group on Biodiversity, Genetic Resource and Conservation. Academically he has been trained in Botany, Forestry and Horticulture from home and abroad. He has authored and co-authored a number of popular articles, books and more than 70 scientific publications in journals. Further more he was co-ordinator of the present Ethnobotany Workshop.

M.K. Alam is Division Head of Forest Botany Division at Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Chittagong (BFRI). He has been working in the field of plant taxonomy, biodiversity, ethnobotany and agroforestry for more than two decades. Academically he is trained in plant taxonomy both at masters and doctoral level. Furthermore he has undergone many national and international training programmes on agroforestry, research planning and evaluation, technical writing and editing, biodiversity assessment. In addition to his research job at BFRI he also works as part time teacher and examiner in the Institute of Forestry & Environmental Sciences at Chittagong University, and resource person of various training programmes. Dr. Alam has authored and co-authored more than 70 scientific publications in journals and chapters in books.

Pei Sheng-ji is Division Head of Mountain Natural Resources and Biodiversity Specialist at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development based in Kathmandu, Nepal. He also supervises the UNESCO-ICIMOD Project on Applied Ethnobotany in the Hindu Kush Region. He was trained in Botany at Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China and advanced training on ethnobotany at University of Hawaii, USA. As founder of the First Ethnobotanical Institution in China, he holds the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Ethnobotany at Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS in China. He has been working in plant taxonomy, ethnobotany and biodiversity for the past thirty years in China, South Asia and Hindu Kush-Region. Since 1990 he has joined ICIMOD.

Ajay Rastogi is a staff of the Mountain Natural Resources Division of ICIMOD and coordinates the Hindu Kush-Ethnobotany Project. He has been working in the field of biodiversity Conservation for last ten years. He was heading the Eastern Biodiversity 'Hotspots' Conservation Programme office based in Arunachal Pradesh prior to joining at ICIMOD. Academically, he has studied Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Agroforestry at the baccalaureate level and Environmental Science at the masters level. In addition he has undergone various national and international training programmes on various aspects of nature conservation science and practice. He has authored and co-authored various popular articles, chapters in books and publications in journals.