

Preface

The research group of Sciences of Functional Foods, Graduate School of Agriculture, Shinshu University and the Council for Renewable Natural Resources Research of Bhutan (CoRRB) has been carrying out the joint research project “Edible Wild Plants of Bhutan” from 2005. As the first fruit of the joint research project for three years the book “Edible Wild Plants of Bhutan and Their Associated Traditional Knowledge” was published. In commemoration of publication of the book we held International Symposium 2008, entitled “Sustainable Coexistence with Forest – Dietary Usage of Wild Plants and Agriculture in Bhutan –” on November 22, 2008 at Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University. In the Symposium 2008 we discussed research activities on RNR (Renewable Natural Resources) and agriculture in Bhutan with Bhutanese research scientists in the field. Proceeding of the Symposium 2008 was published on Journal of the Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University (Vol. 45, 2009).

International Seminar 2009, “Sustainable Development Based on Usage of Renewable Natural Resources in Bhutan” is the second meeting on RNR research following the above International Symposium 2008. As is generally known, The Kingdom of Bhutan locates at the Himalayan southeastern foot is going to develop and to modernize under the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) rather than Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The concept of GNH was first articulated in 1980 by the 4th King of Bhutan, His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuk. GNH is a development paradigm composed of four pillars ; 1) sustainable and equitable socio-economic development, 2) ecological preservation and sustainable usage, 3) preservation and promotion of culture, and 4) good governance. As for 2) ecological preservation and sustainable usage, research programs on sustainable usage of RNR and sustainable agriculture are being practiced under CoRRB.

In this seminar we discuss development of sustainable agriculture under GNH concept and research policy on RNR with high officials, director and chief research officer of CoRRB, from broad viewpoint. The fruits of this seminar will contribute to sustainable development based on usage of RNR and promotion of academic exchange between Shinshu University and RNR related research institutes of Bhutan.

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