

PROCEEDING OF SEMINAR

The first autonomous seminar of botany dept in the session 2017-18 was held on 11th October 2017 at 11.30 am in career counselling hall. The meeting was presided by Vice Principal of Salipur Autonomous college, Dr. Prabhat Kumar Routray and Dr. Bhaskar Chandra Patra, principal scientist, NRRI was the resource person on the occasion. Vice principal Dr. Prabhat Kumar Routray gave his valuable talk on biodiversity of life both including flora and fauna and explained the importance of rice for the growing population of India along with adverse environmental condition. HOD of Botany Dr. Geeta Rath, introduced the chairpersons and also narrated the importance of rice in our country especially in coastal areas like Odisha and the roles and improvement of various genotypes of rice for the enhancement of the biodiversity of rice.

The resource person Dr. Bhaskar Chandra Patra explained on the topic **genetic diversity** on rice. He noted that agriculture relies heavily on the genetic diversity of crop lands. Ever since the very beginning of agriculture (more than 10 thousand years ago), during the process of domestication and cultivation of crop lands, a wealth of genetic diversity has been utilised and partly preserved. It is estimated that not even 15% of the potential diversity has been utilised. Thousands of allelic variations of traits of economic significance remain unutilised in nearly all crop lands. The domestication of rice dates back to antiquity, although the precise time and place of its domestication may never be known. But Vavilov in 1887 reported that rice had originated in India, however the domestication took place independently in China and Indonesia. Hence it is polyphyletic in nature, which gave rise to Asia's three varietal groups, *japonica*, *indica* and *javanica*. There is archeological evidence that rice was cultivated in India between 1500 and 1000 BC. With its long history of cultivation and selection under diverse environments, rice acquired

