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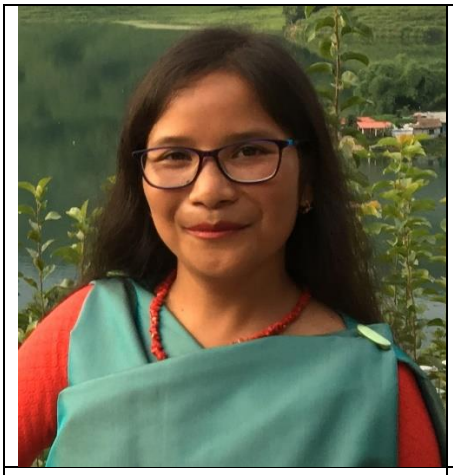
Summer Field School [Online] on
MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine :: 19-28 September, 2021

DELEGATE PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

	**Dr. Wishfully Mylliemngap** *Scientist - B* G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment North-East Regional Centre Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India Phone: +91 8258041867 Email: wishm2015@gmail.com
Highest Education	Ph.D. (Botany)
Personal Statement	Dear colleagues! First of all I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) for providing me this opportunity to participate in the forthcoming Summer School on 'Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management' as a delegate participant. I hold a Ph.D. in Botany with specialization in Forest Ecology and Biodiversity from North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya, India. My Ph.D. thesis was on 'Structural and functional responses of landscape elements to anthropogenic land-use changes in Cherrapunjee plateau'. Currently, I am working at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, North-East Regional Centre (Arunachal Pradesh, India) as a scientist. My academic interests include biodiversity, traditional knowledge systems of selected indigenous communities of northeastern India as well as rural livelihood development through sustainable utilization and conservation of local bioresources. I am also involved in various extension and outreach programmes such as green skill building programmes for local students and unemployed youths; training and capacity building of local farmers and women self-help groups (SHGs) in low-cost agricultural technologies, value-addition and marketing of local agricultural produce and species of wild

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	edible plants. Published articles in peer reviewed journals, book chapters and popular articles on various topics of ecology, biodiversity, medicinal plants and traditional knowledge. Also participated and presented papers in various national and international platforms.
Paper/Presentation Title (Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)	*Agro-Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management in Traditional Agricultural Systems of Northeast India*
Keywords	Indigenous communities; Agriculture; Traditional knowledge; Sustainable farming
Abstract (100-300 words)	Physiographically, the North-eastern region of India can be categorized as the Indian Eastern Himalaya covering about 52% of the total Eastern Himalayas. The Eastern Himalaya is recognized as a 'Centre of Plant Biodiversity'; 'Eastern Asiatic Regional Centre for Endemism' and also comprises one of the 'global biodiversity hotspots'. Moreover, the region is culturally diverse with over 39 million people and over a hundred culturally-distinct ethnic communities. Rain-fed agriculture is the main livelihood source supplemented by gathering of wild edible fruits and vegetables form nearby forests and farm fallows. The traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) associated with these practices is preserved in the form of stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, beliefs, rituals, community laws, local languages and other forms of oral traditions. Traditional agriculture in NE India follows mixed cropping pattern through multi-cropping, crop rotation, use of multipurpose N-fixing trees, along with protection of semi-domesticated and wild biodiversity, including medicinal plants, wild edible fruits and vegetables, fodder plants and other useful species. Presently, there has been a gradual shifting from subsistence cultivation to commercial agriculture driven by market forces and modernization, leading to transition from traditional agriculture to mono-culture plantations of cash crops. This has resulted in reduced cultivation of local crop varieties and disappearance of the associated TEK. Therefore, the present study attempts to review contribution of traditional agricultural practices to

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	agro-diversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Relevant traditional practices such as include shifting (Jhum) cultivation systems, bamboo-drip irrigation, paddy-cum-fish cultivation, traditional agroforestry systems of different indigenous communities residing in different states of NE India were mentioned in this review. It is undeniable that TEK was developed by communities through many centuries by trial and error methods to conform to the local climate, topography, ecology and socio-cultural relevance to the concerned indigenous community. This knowledge, therefore, has a great scope for improvement by integration with scientific knowledge for transforming into sustainable agricultural systems in the face of climate change adaptation and mitigation of the vulnerable mountain communities of the Himalayan region.
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