SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT

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Ramesh C Mukalla
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Dear Siva,

Received the signed copy of the MOU for 1996. Thank you for being very prompt. The funds will be released in another two weeks time.

I am writing this letter for a different purpose. You must have heard of Swiss Development Cooperation. It is one of our donor partners. It is organising a sensitization workshop in Bangalore from 20/5/96 to 25/5/96 on Biodiversity support and capacity building. I am enclosing a copy of the relevant material. I thought that the issue is close to your heart and therefore committed your time for this workshop. I hope you will be able to go to the workshop. Mr. Pramod Tyagi from SPWD will also attend the programme.

What I understood from the programme is somewhat as follows:

a)   The green revolution has played its part and is no longer financially viable to continue this due to increased cost of irrigation and other deleterious externalities associated with it. It has promoted limited number of hybrid seed varieties which may be susceptible to disease. However, when irrigation is available the first thing the farmer does is to go in for intensive agriculture using Hybrid seeds and fertilisers. There is no need to emphasise the fact that this system is not sustainable.

b)   Under such conditions the GATT provisions on agriculture would make the use of indigenous seed material by the farmers difficult in due course because the MNCs will patent these.

c)   Therefore in our project areas attention should be given to the above two factors in preserving biodiversity.

What we have to do is to collect information from your project areas on the changing pattern of agriculture. Please start thinking in these lines till I get in touch with you again.

There seems to be a problem with your telephone. Is there a new