

Tribal Community of Koraput receives the Genome Saviour Award

Panchavati Gramya Unnayana Samiti, an organization of the Tribal Farming Communities of Koraput District of Orissa, has been selected for the Genome Saviour Award of the Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FR) of the Govt. of India. The award is instituted under the PPV&FR Act to recognize and reward the communities and farmers for their contribution to genetic resources conservation and improvement. The tribal community of Koraput has been selected for this recognition for their outstanding and seminal contribution to conservation of plant genetic resources particularly Rice, in the biodiversity rich center of southern Orissa. The community representatives of Koraput will receive the award from the Union Agriculture Minister at a formal Function held today on the 20th February at New Delhi. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, has been assisting the tribal communities of Koraput for undertaking conservation of traditional rice varieties of the region and linking it with livelihood improvement. It is notable that such award is of first of its kind in any biodiversity rich country in the world.