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Govt green signal to Ev-K2-CNR to collect seed for Himalayan Seed Bank

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Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has shown a green signal to a request by an Italian research agency for seed collection permit to be stored at Himalayan Seed Bank on a condition that the seed won't be exported to Italy.

The revelation was made by Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary at the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, during the meeting between Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation Md. Wakil Musalman with Agostino Da Polenza, President of Ev-K2-CNR, Consulate General of Italy in Kolkatta Joel Melchiori at the Ministry, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu.

As per the discussion, the Italian expert will provide required training for collecting the seeds while the Nepali will lead the team for the smooth operation of the bank.

The bank set up by the government at the premises of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), run under a joint-project of the NAST and Ev-K2-CNR Committee, the Italy based research agency that conducts various research studies in Nepal including the Snow Leopard, Share Everest, among others.

The discussion was positive and constructive experience, also succeeded to give clear picture about the scientific activities of the Ev-K2-CNR committee, especially in the field of Biodiversity, told Da Polenza.

The tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between DNPWC, NAST and Ev-K2-CNR yet to finalize was discussed during the meeting. The Italian sides assured that the seed collected during field campaigns will not be exported as well as radio tracking will not be performed on large mammals.



Science and Technology Kalpana Dhamala and NAST Vice Chancellor Prof. Surendra Raj Kafle at Singhadurbar, Kathmandu.

During the meeting Melchiori draw attention for the automatic renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of Nepal for Scientific and Technological Cooperation on August 2011 for the next 5 years. However, it has been learnt that the Nepali side has assured for timely follow-up through diplomatic channels. The meeting was crucial in the development of scientific activities.

During the meeting Da Polenza also informed the delegates about the International Scientific Conference scheduled for September 2012 and to be host by Ev-K2-CNR Committee. The conference will address scientific and technological topics, climate change and mountain regions development after the Rio+20 Summit.

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