

## Need for diversity in action

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### General Note



Article is recommended to print as color version in recycled paper. *Save Plants, Save Climate.*

## **NEED FOR DIVERSITY IN ACTION**

(Key note address given by Y.S.Rajan at the NCCSD National level Workshop "Knowledge Multiplication and Mass Communication for Agriculture in arena of Climate Change" at Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 27/10/15)

Hon'ble B.P.Singh, Dr. J.P.Mishra, Dr. Kiritshelat, Dr. Pathak, Dr. Maheswari, Dr. N.C.Patel, Dr. Ashok Patel

First of all, let me thank the organizers particularly Dr.KiritShelat for giving me this opportunity and honour. What attracted me to NCCSD several years ago was the approach of Dr.KiritShelat towards Climate Change issues. I have seen many persons in Delhi who follow the developed world agenda, shifting from Global Warming to Climate Change. Many Indian thinkers and activists were on the single point agenda of reducing the actions to CO2 emissions. There were intellectual discussions on emission, emission intensity, per capita emissions etc. Actions were around the advocacy of banishing coal in power sector and go all out for renewable energies. It was not their concern about the cost effectiveness of the price of electricity; most of them appear not to care about reaching electricity to about 600 million unserved Indians. Such persons talk of IT revolution and e-education without apparent concern to reach electricity to villages, towns etc. Their answer was: Solar! How else India can reduce CO2 emissions? - was their constant slogan. Some pitched for nuclear power, which ran into resistance from another set of activists.

Here comes Dr.KiritShelat with his small team. They addressed the fundamental problem and focused on a few specific implementable actions:

- (1) Actions towards overall reduction of CO2 emissions by using the very same processes nature uses: that is to grow biomass as much possible as a part of various agriculture practices in areas where there is no such growth. The team has shown with calculations as to how the atmospheric CO2 is utilized (eaten up) by these plants and vegetation, on a relatively massive scale.

(2) Since, the potential deleterious effects of “Climate Change “will affect the farmers who are already under stress,use these very same agricultural practices by upgrading them to enable survival of plants and crops in stress conditions.

Thanks to the support given by Kakaji Kantisen Shroff, Ashwin Shroff & family, Hon’ble Justice B.P. Singh, and several others who came later, he and his team started demonstrating the actions on the ground. They trained more persons. There is no better proof than doing on the ground. How much CO<sub>2</sub> saved / utilized one can be calculated based on existing formulas.

What was another attractive feature of NCCSD team was that they did not insist on one-shoe-fit-all approach: My-way-the-only-way. They were ready to accept different ideas and actions from different groups. There was no this versus that; nor was anti-this, anti-that the approach. It is this “ideology of diversity” which attracted me. In a short term it has yielded many good results. In addition, the active leaders of such teams attracted by NCCSD have been recognized for their work and promoted; awarded and acclaimed in diverse fronts: govt., industry and by technical agencies. Almost every six months Dr. Shelat would inform about them and we congratulate. He was also recognized and he was humble about that!

My main appeal to all of you here and others who may come to know about NCCSD actions is to keep up this action oriented approach relevant to India and use diversity in action as the mantra and the guide. You may add used water recycling and reuse, as an important practice. If one chases renewable energy alone, or reduction of coal plants alone, countries like India cannot easily get electric power. When India is promising emission intensity reduction it can use a more holistic approach. All power generating stations or other manufacturing units which emit CO<sub>2</sub>, may not only try to reduce emissions through engineering technologies but also through large scale biomass growth around them as demonstrated by NCCSD and its partners. Engineering helps reduction in generation of CO<sub>2</sub>; biomass agriculture practices help absorb generation CO<sub>2</sub> in

the atmosphere. We have thus two reductions. I hope that our experts and academies, instead of blindly following the formulas given by the developed countries, do such holistic calculations which are real.

Am I only attempting to cleverly design a CO<sub>2</sub> accounting method for meeting international commitments? No, I am deeply committed to the cause of: "Living with Nature in the Modern World" I consider it as the "Mission for the Human Beings in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." So much so, I have been writing a series of monthly articles in the Kisan World for the past 5 years; sixtieth article has been sent to appear in Dec 2015. First 29 articles have come out as a book by Ocean Books Pvt. Ltd. with the same title Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Living with Nature in the Modern World). Please see my website [www.ysrajan.com](http://www.ysrajan.com).

Though Climate Change related issues are real, the follow up prescriptions and massive communication (and academic work around it) by the developed world end up with a few, one-point actions on CO<sub>2</sub> without addressing many other real issues. This is a mantra with geo political, geo cultural, geo commercial motives behind them.

Those who talk about "Carbon Foot Print", don't talk about "Consumption Hand Print". If all of the world has the same consumption patterns as the 1 billion developed country people, can the globe sustain? Even within developing countries, can they sustain the lifestyles enjoyed by its Rich-and-Super-Rich (RSR) and Upper-Middle-Class (UMC) persons? Is the alternative only to deprive bulk of the currently consumption –starved persons to remain so without giving the benefit of modern knowledge bases which have helped human kind to grow from its 1 billion plus levels in mid-1940's to about 7 billion plus levels now, which may go to 10 plus billion by 2040 and stabilize?

Every body in the world cannot use the facial tissue paper as in developed world for personal hygiene.

Or get the water only through bottled water and beverages? Or use their agricultural practices? One can add more such items. They all contribute to heavy consumption from the Nature.

It is not a call to go to the primordial state by living. But use the scientific and technological knowledge, differently to reduce consumption from nature and yet giving good life to people.

For bulk of the people in the developing world, there will be diverse ways for the definition of good lives and diverse standards of products and services.

World cannot be brought under one single EU or FDA standards. Nor to the life styles determined by the high power advertisements and subtle writings/images in the electronic and print media.

This is the true challenge of mass communication facing India and the developing countries. The good work done by NCCSD and similar organizations have to be packaged to be delivered in diverse media –FM Radio to TV channels to social media including free download packages. Also through folk songs; Bollywood type Indian movies; school dramas etc.

This communication is vital for NCCSD in the coming years in addition to the massive scale up of its content. Well demonstrated actions in the ground to much larger parts of a few other countries who are in a similar situations (for example Africa) would also be needed. One task is to do on the ground and prove. And other is to tell many others what such NCCSD type actions mean for mitigation Climate Change.

I have a chapter in my book "The Ideology of Diversity; Role of Youth." I quote; "Most of the issues revolve around understanding and absorbing "Diversity" as a way of life. Diversity is not a political slogan or a convenient method of identity politics... The idea of diversity is derived from the principles of science especially life sciences..

To use an administrative phrase, nature's delegation of 'powers' up to the lower most levels is extraordinarily generous; it is very patient to allow operations at the local levels to work themselves and take decisions depending on various situations around them and adapt it necessary. Yet the complex overall

connectedness and the feedback-feed forward systems, are also in place, absorbing all the actions and inactions from all the constituents” unquote.

This diversity is perceived differently depending on the Generation to which one belongs. Generation 1, those who were 20 at the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century, Generation 2, those who were 20 years at the time of independence, Generation 3, those who were 20 at the time of 1970's , Generation 4, those who were 20 in 1990's the time of economic liberalization, Generation 5, those who were 20 around 2010. The ideology of diversity is crucial for all. The details are explained in the chapter of my book.

I appeal to all those from Generation 2 to Generation 5 to start a movement of REDISCOVERY OF DIVERSITY.

Thank you all.