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# **Bio ethical role in collection of local indigenous germplasm and earn money by selling of intellectual property right in Sindh, Pakistan**

Farzana Panhwar, May 2005

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## **Bio ethical role in collection of local indigenous germplasm and earn money by selling of intellectual property right in Sindh, Pakistan**

### **Abstract.**

In order to bring peace, education, research and development in the Universe, various organisations have been established having their members through out the World. The purpose of these organisations is to formulate various laws and make them applicable so justice should be maintained throughout the World .

Recently some international industries started using non-ethical and illegal ways for collecting of germ plasm. Their purpose is to get bulk supply at very cheap rates and want to escape from all ways not to pay taxes. This way they are not only using the criminal methods, but simultaneously they are breaking the merit of scholar, those seriously doing life-long research and they only survive on getting royalty on Intellectual Property Rights for their innovation work.

### **Conclusion.**

In order to stop this illegal net-work which is used for collection of germplasm and its supplies. We all at national and international level should join together to stop these activities, and help each other for protection of natural resources, design proper and ethical ways of conservation, used good strategies, where no illegal leakage takes place. This way we can bring peace, and sustainable development in the Universe.

### **Introduction.**

At Global level, Pakistan comes under South-East-Asia. While Sindh is the southern part of Pakistan. The Province of Sindh lies between 23° 40' to 28° 30N' and 66°40' to 71° 30E'.The region has sub-tropical climate, receiving 100-550 chill units and 3700-4500 heat units. It soil is sandy-loam, having pH -7.8 . The Sindh land is very fertile , large diversity of crops are grown in it. It is the natural habitat for all local birds and living organism.

### **General Description.**

Few years back, government in Sindh had promoted a cheap bazaars called, Tuesday , Friday, and Sunday bazaars. The purpose of these bazaars is to supply fresh food items ,vegetables and fruits, to the consumer at an affordable prices. It is an excellent idea and it works very well. These bazaars had provided an open-out-let , at a very cheap prices, any one can bring their produce and products for sale at this market, or bazaar , get a profit himself, without the interference of middle men As a general appearance s it seems a great idea.

### **Beginning of germplasm sale business at local level.**

In an early months of above business, few businessmen, brought a varieties of sparrows and other beautiful local Sindh birds in cages for sale in urban cities in the above bazaars. Urban people like birds and they jump into purchasing of these , result into flourishing the business very fast. People take pairs of birds in small cages in urban homes, some for children's entertainment, some for increasing the beautify the house by having live birds, some just to full-fill their desire of having birds in their homes. In the beginning of business , pair of the small birds was sold for few hundreds rupees .With in few months time to meet an urban areas supply and demand resulted in to create a vacuum in the supply , which resulted to shooting-up, birds prices from Rupees.100 to Rupees. 6,000 normally, while rare species birds are sold at the rate of Rupees.10,000- Rupees.25,000 , depending upon its existence and availability.

### **Germplasm of birds collectors busted in to this business.**

The birds supply in the Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday bazaars comes by the businessmen in the cities taking the help by involving various rural tribes from Sindh. These tribe are assigned to collect all birds alive from the rural areas of Sindh. The most demanding birds are local sparrow and Jerrkhi, also called Lalari, and neel khants. The most active communities are Kholi, Bheel, Mangawar, and Brohi as well as many other tribes. They collect a few millions of birds from rural areas of Sindh, smuggle them to the Karachi city. These germplasm collectors smuggle these birds illegally. These groups have complete local channels and international net-work for germplasm collection and sales to International market.

These groups of germplasm collectors brings tons of cash money in the rural areas, with money they purchase local communities, utilise them for collection of local indigenous germplasm. These local communities are trained to capture live birds, put them in to cages, supplied by the group, and asked them to bring them at secrete bus stops, where large number of buses already waiting for the consignment, and then these buses rushes to Karachi bus stop. The whole channel is so synchronised that these buses leaving rural areas must reach Karachi around 9-11am. From Karachi bus stop these are rushed to the air-port. Their seats and packages are advanced booked in an aeroplane from their they sent to the international market supply channels.

Every day a large number of buses from various parts of rural areas of Sindh, bring live birds cages, all the buses must reach bus stop in Karachi secrete around 9-11 am. Each bus usually having capacity of 10-12 cages of birds, while each cage have capacity more carrying more than 5,000 birds, the contractors those brings these cages from rural to Karachi city, get an increment at the rate of Rupees 5.00 per bird.

### **Normal Routine Work.**

It is observed that a huge crowd of crow, eagle, dogs, and cats are located near the Karachi bus stop. When the consignment of birds reaches from rural areas of Sindh to Karachi bus stop, here the contractor of the rural area check each cage, before handing over to the city contractor. The local men remove all the insect eating birds from the cages, because they can not provide insects as a feed for these birds when they travel internationally, as it becomes uneconomical for them. Then the city contractors check the consignment and put local feed called bajara for them in the cages, and remove all the small size birds and their chicks from the cages, and send this assignment to the international market.

### **Scare seen at Karchi bus stops.**

The month of February, March and April are the breeding months of local sparrow in Sindh. In these month most of time the parents birds are located in the nest to look-after the newly born babies. This time is the golden time for the germplasm collectors, as soon as Sun-sets these sparrow are located in their nest. The rural communities hired by paying large amount of money, they become unethical to collect the whole nest, just to capture the adult birds alive, put them into cages and transport them to Karachi, In Karachi bus stop these cages are re-examined according to international standard, all birds must have uniform size, weight, breed. The al chicks, insect eating birds, and sick birds are thrown out in an open-air. The newly born birds have yet not learnt the techniques of flying, and they immediately attacked by large crowd of crow, eagles, dogs and cats. This is an unethical, in-humaintarin practice done in urban city with poor animals.

### **Germplasm collectors national and International network role in this business.**

There are various reasons behind this business, some are mentioned as under:

- At an International level, various organisations have developed germplasm depositories, where they bring original germplasm, collected from various sources from various countries and store for protection of original germplasm. These centres also release these materials to research organisations, for doing various research, some use it for medicinal, agriculture, and industrial products development, some use it for various scientific test performance on them. The example is: that in Sindh local sparrows have special genes, which make it resistant to various harsh environments for survival.
- The local sparrow of Sindh is in a great demand globally. If the germplasm depository supply this original material to anyone, then the purchaser has to sign Intellectual Property Right Law and pay its fees. At the same time the movement of germplasm from one country to another, has to follow the laws of, phytosanitary, tax-payment and, in case of live animals movement one has to have, animal health certificate, to confirm that these animals are free from infection and diseases. This helps to protect the out-break of diseases in to other countries. This has resulted due to sick and contaminated germplasm movements.

### **Germplasm collectors role in this business.**

In order to break all the above laws, few groups of people have started their national and international network, to avoid legal laws and still earn millions of rupees. These groups which are involved in illegal activities are too rich, they pay heavy cash amount to local rural tribes for collection of germplasm. and make them party to in this business, without their knowledge.

Due to heavy cash flow of money, they get absolute no problem at custom point in the air-ports, getting a booking space in the aeroplane and easily cross the International taxes spots, and law channels.

These germplasm collectors show themselves as a business men at every step, they tell others that they had provided jobs to the rural communities, rural and urban transport national and international market places, by assigning them various jobs.

### **Open picture of this business.**

These germplasm collectors called themselves a businessmen, when they approach to rural communities they say that they are too sympathetic to the rural peoples, especially some minorities tribes. They claim that their purpose is that each rural person get a job and earns money. Due to large number of unemployment in the rural areas most of people rush to them and work with them and received an attractive payment for their job. This tempts other people also to work with them. This way the business not only getting footing in the rural areas but this business is booming too fast.

In order to satisfy urban communities they play other drama, they get 1% birds from the lot, put them in to small cages of 50-100 birds per cage. They engage urban street children, pay them heavily, guide them how to sale this lot of birds. So these people bring the birds in urban areas, contact with big and rich businessmen ask them to pay money, so they can release these birds from the cages to an open-air. This way they satisfied businessmen that they are doing religious job, by releasing birds from the captivity to an open air, they also satisfied the poor urban peoples by paying heavy money for this job.

The government runs bazaars are also a show case coverages to protect their illegal business, government thinks that they are helping poor people by providing them outlet to sale their produce.

### **Actual facts behind this business.**

- Some international companies illegally collect the germplasm and sale to the research stations internationally at a very high prices in the world market and earn lot of money by sale local Sindh sparrow germplasm to them.

- The purpose and secret of the game is to deliberately create a vacuum of particular breed of birds in specific area of Sindh.
- Then release their own research report, findings and results about this particular breed of sparrow in which their statistics, confirm that this particular bird sparrow is on the extinct stage, and need immediate steps to protect them.
- They show this research report to the funding agencies, get heavy money, in the name of same research, then submit their own research report, about the reasons of extent of particular breed of bird, and design future strategies to protect them.
- After completion of their research report they approach various farm chemical companies They ask money from them for the same research report, some times they even use threats to the farm chemical companies that if they not pay money, they are cable of establishing a relationship of particular farm chemical and made it responsible for this disaster, this way they can destroy the company's reputation by spreading wrong propaganda against them.
- Some times some corrupted agents of chemical companies hire their services of these illegal germ collector groups, pay them and destroyed the reputation of their compete companies, make their products responsible for this disaster, this way they make road clear for marketing their own product.
- These illegal germplasm collector group, some time also exploit the international conservation organisations, by providing them statistical data, and other characteristics ( provide them ready made research reports ) and help them in securing funding for conservation purposes.
- They also guide various NGO's for establishment of projects like re-habitation of this particular breed of sparrow. They charge from them and made arrangement of supply of illegal germplams depositories, where they can get this particular breed, and place them in their original environment, produce an excellent good results in their reports.
- They also approach to various government agencies, ask them to purchase origiinal germ plasm, pay intellectual Property Right for the germ plasm, also guide them the consequences which happen due to absence of these germplasm, they also guide how to bring the natural rural beauty back and control the disturbance of eco-system in their absence.
- The whole channel is so established that first they deliberate create vacuum, then supply the our own germplasm by charging heavy amount of prices plus intellectual Property Right charges.

At glance this complete sequence of business looks an innocent game of earning money, but this brings permanent consequences of destruction of natural habitat, disturbance of Eco-system and rural environment. This is explain as under.

#### **Consequences occurs due to loss of natural germ plasm.**

In rural areas of Sindh existence of our local sparrow have 5000 years old history, their sign of existence was found in Mohen-jo-daro. Due to interbreeding of same local breed they had developed special breed, having resistance gene for harsh climatic conditions, special food habitat and presence of specific digestive enzyme, which made this sparrow to digest some inedible weeds at the time of famine. But this local sparrow need its own natural habitat for its breeding and production. This mean that this sparrow is climaticised to the rural Sindh environment. But when these illegal germ plams collectors obtain them, 2% sparrows lose their lives due to wrong way of capturing them, while 5% sparrows get injured during this process.

When these people bring the live sparrow consignment to Karachi, for export purposes, during this time 10% sparrows lose their lives due to transportation jerks shocks, long distance travel, fear, captivity, long starvation, and physical injuries.

The 1% sparrow out from the whole lot, which sent to local market to provide shelter and coverage for their business, .0.5% sparrow are released by the big businessmen, when these sparrow are allowed to fly in the urban atmosphere due to fear, exhaustion, starvation, shock, injuries, make them unable to fly in the cities, immediately becomes the target of big animals. If any one escape they are not able to get their food, can not get material for making a nest and, it means the whole progeny is lost for ever. 0.5% birds brought to the street of urban cities, these are usually purchased by small children, they do not know at what temperature they should keep, mostly people put them in the open space mostly under the Sun, where they die in few days due to heat, or they can not survive long in the captivity. This way they can not continue their breed.

The breeding time of local sparrow in Sindh is February, March and April, the germplasm collectors get the whole nest and put them into cages, it means no progeny of local sparrow left in Sindh to continue their breed in future.

The market demand of local sparrow is very high, while breeding is a slow process, It means if this business continued for few years, then no sparrow will be left in Sindh.

The germplasm collection and its illegal export, business is designed in such a way that the heavy flow of money, doubles the export business and, finishes the whole jobs in a few months, before it comes in to the notice of government and law enforcement agencies. After finishing this business, they quickly enter in to entirely different kind of business, so it becomes difficult to the government to track their link and prove their involvement to take legal action against them.

### **Immediate steps are required to stop this illegal business.**

Any action to stop this business can not bring any good results, unless we have checked its deep rooted causes, which are responsible for this flourishing business.

The various causes which are the back-bone of this business are as under:

- Global warming, desertification, resulted into bringing severe drought conditions in Sindh. Sindh's economy is based only on agriculture. Agricultural land is the breeding ground of local sparrow. Global warming and green house gases, result in to severe water shortage, which has already brought destruction in agricultural sector in Pakistan. Warming will further raise temperature very high in Sindh. Thousands of local sparrow have lost their lives due to high temperature in Sindh. The high temperature results into low availability of water for agricultural purposes, which has ended into destruction of million of hectare of land in Sindh. This also has brought large numbers of unemployment in the rural areas.
- This rural poverty is actually caused due to fixing of low price of agriculture commodities, which bring severe gaps between rural and urban area, the purpose of low fix alone of wheat prices is, to favour industrial people to get cheap labour. The labour prices are fixed according to wheat prices.
- It means that rural unemployment, and they are not educated enough to be absorbed in the urban labour forces and are compelled to do any legal or ill-legal jobs to earn money for their survival.
- These illegal germplasm collectors are familiar with the rural situation, so they bring millions of cash money, provide local communities and involve in illegal business.

### **Diversion of business to other discipline as well.**

In the beginning of sparrow germplasm collection, the international market demand was local Sindh sparrow germplasm. Due to over supply in a few months, its supply reduced tremendously. These businessmen want to full-fill their shortage in business. They start switch to the collection of live snakes germplasm from Sindh for export. These snakes are mostly found in Thar and Kohistan areas of Sindh. These people utilising the same national and international channel for its export and doing it illegally, earning millions of rupees as a profit.

- The only difference between the germplasm collection of sparrow and snake is that the , the snake germplasm goes to international industries utilisation for processing of its skin, which is used for leathers, shoes and ladies hand bags making. Its venom -called poison bag is directly sent to the medicinal industries, where it is used in medicine making. Snake meat utilisation depends upon the types of snake . Meat of some snakes meat are used for eating purposes, while meat of poisons ones are used in fertiliser industries.
- In addition to sparrow and other birds, there is heavy demand for hawks, eagles and falcons. Which are searched by Arabs for hunting purposes, a good one sale for Rupees .100,000 and trapper get about 25%. These trapper hide themselves near traps for days together to catch them alive.
- The vultures and cranes are also exported in large quantities.
- The way this business is flourishing and moving fast and , if we will not take any immediate step to crush them they will sale every indigenous germplasm of flora and fauna from the rural areas of Sindh, and make it desert. They have already removed local sparrow and most of birds from Sindh.

### **The Pattern of Eco-system disturbance in Sindh.**

The local sparrow and other small birds play a great role in nature. Agricultural land is the breeding ground of these sparrow, they play a great role in spreading of seeds from one place to others they also help in pollination of flowers, these birds also eat certain harmful insects from the fields and reduce their population, this way they protect the crops from the attacks of huge insects. The dropping of birds are rich source of fertiliser. Sparrow also consume large number of seeds of the weeds , this way they naturally involved in controlling the weed population in the fields.

The snakes also play a great role in maintenance and balance in the natural eco-system. Snakes kill rats, which are the biggest problem in the agricultural fields. Rats destroy the fields by borrowing, and making holes in it. Snakes help in balancing the natural eco-system. Snakes also eat many kinds of harmful insects. This way the snakes act as a cleaning agent. In Tharparkar and Kohistan areas of Sindh, we have large population of peacocks. Their food is snakes. Peacock kill the snakes, so the snake population in nature remain constant. Peacock is a richest animal protein source in desert areas of Sindh, at the same time bear and pig, eat them.

These are the natural factors which control and maintain the balance in the eco-system. If any one factor is removed or destroyed due to any reason the complete ,eco-system cycle get disturbed. which results into destruction of nature, and its becomes un-fit for the survival of living organism on the earth.

### **Seeking International helps to protect our germplasm.**

The business of exporting local sparrow germplasm is run by the involvement of big organisations those already having their roots throughout the World. These organisations and companies are too rich, even they can purchase our country. That's why we need international agencies help to check and break their net-work. Force them to follow legal laws and regulations , pay proper taxes, follow the laws of phytosynatory agreement procedure , get proper health certificate of living animal movement, This way we can bring sustainable development in the rural areas.

This is our duty that we all take immediate action against this illegal business and take legal action against their net-work . It is also possible that innocently these business men involved in to spreading of fatal contiguous diseases to the other part of the world. A few examples are already in front of us, in form of mad-cow disease, SARC virus, foot and mouth diseases in goats and sheep, influenza virus, and now chicken flu in birds.

### **Conclusion.**

We all want peace globally and healthy environment for our survival, this is the basic aim of all the countries in the World and that is why lot of efforts are put to design certain laws to protect the Universe and bring peace in the World . These laws are: international laws of conservation of species, and nature. Intellectual Property Right Law, World Health Organisation Rules and Regulations, International movement of Germplasm, Tax system of National and International business, and thousands of other laws, which helps in bringing peace, and protect all the lives and right of every body in the earth.

If some leakage take place due to any reason and above laws are not obeyed , this will result into disaster for humanity It is easy to control the leakage and defects in the beginning before its grows fast.

Since this illegal business has already spread throughout rural areas of Sindh, and has reached urban cities, before we destroy our and other countries, it is our duty that we all join had developed a strong power to destroy this net-work and take serious legal action against those involved in it

It is my appeal to the whole World to help us in restoring the nature and bring peace in the World. This can not be achieved unless all nations join hand protect the natural resources , take proper conservation steps, bring ecological and sustainable development globally .So we can leave better, saver and healthy environment for our children.

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