

## Research Communication

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# FOLK RICE LANDRACES FROM KORAPUT VALLEY OF EASTERN GHATS OF INDIA IMPROVING TRIBAL FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

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*Diversity of folk rice varieties (also called rice landraces) and its wild relatives provides the bedrock of evolution for cultivated rice. Koraput valley of Eastern Ghats is well known for its rich human cultural diversity along with home to large number of folk rice varieties. The last five decades have witnessed a rapid decline in the genetic diversity of rice in this region because of so-called Green Revolution, when most of the traditional folk varieties were replaced with a handful of modern cultivars. The remaining folk varieties are still surviving on marginal farms and tribal families are testimony to the amazing capacity for adaptation of local landraces to different abiotic and biotic environmental conditions to contain sources of useful genes. They also embody the remote history of farmers' selection of genotypes to suit diverse cultural preferences, diverse nutraceutical properties and good quality traits. In the present paper an effort has been made to highlight the rice genetic resources of Koraput for improving food and nutritional security and their livelihood implications in the era of climate change.*

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